DC
TWO LEGION of SUPER-HEROES STORIES IN EVERY ISSUE!
ADVENTURE COMICS
$1.25
$1.50 CANADIAN
NO. 497 MAR.
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN
CREATE CHAOS IN THE CASINO!
A LEGION THRILLER!
SUPERBOY FINALLY CONFRONTS HIS SUPERIOR:
ULTRA BOY!
THE BIGGEST LITTLE BUY IN COMICS
DC

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THERE IS A LINE MOST PEOPLE WILL NOT CROSS -- A LINE WHICH MARKS THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE SAFE AND FAMILIAR AND THOSE HORRORS THAT WE FEAR! NOW THERE ARE FOUR MEN WHO DARE TO JOURNEY BEYOND THAT BORDER OF THE FRIGHTENING. FOUR MEN LIVING ON BORROWED TIME...

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

LUCK HAS LUSTER. IT IS IN THE NEON TUBES AND TUNGSTEN BULBS WHICH BRING THE BRILLIANCE OF NOON TO MIDNIGHT. LUCK HAS A SOUND. IT IS THE CLICKING OF ROULETTE WHEELS AND THE RUSH OF SILVER DOLLARS DOWN THE RAMP OF ONE-ARMED BANDITS. LUCK HAS A CAPITAL. IT IS LAS VEGAS.

SO TELL ME ABOUT YOUR LUCKY STREAK, JOHNNY. JUDGING FROM WHAT YOU WROTE TO ME, IT'S A BIGGIE.
CASINO
FRONT
THERE'S THE PIGEON! GOTTA TIME THIS RIGHT.
IF YOU'RE HINTING FOR A TOUCH, RED, YOU'LL HAVE TO BE PATIENT. I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO COLLECT ON MY WINNINGS, YET.
LOOK OUT--HIGH ROLLER COMING THROUGH!
VVVRROOOMMM
HE HEADING FOR A DRIVE-IN BLACK-JACK GAME OR WHAT?!

ALL TOGETHER NOW!

BOB ROZAKIS — WRITER ☐ ALEX TOTH & DAN ADKINS — ARTISTS ☐ ANTHONY TOLLIN — COLORIST ☐ JOHN COSTANZA — LETTERING ☐ ANGOLA CUTT — EDITOR

THANKS, RED! WITHOUT THAT SHOVE, THE CAR AND THE BUILDING WOULD'VE BEEN MAKING A SANDWICH WITH ME IN THE MIDDLE!
WHEN YOU CLIMB BUILDINGS AND MOUNTAINS, YOU LEARN TO REACT FAST!
WHERE HAVE I SEEN THAT GUY BEFORE?
OOOHHH!
ALL RIGHT, FOLKS, LET'S CLEAR THE AREA! SHOW'S OVER! WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO HERE!
LET'S MOVE, JOHNNY!
WHERE 'RE YOU GOING? WE 'RE WITNESSES! THE COPS'LL WANT A STATEMENT!
THERE 'RE PLENTY OF TOURISTS WHO'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO TALK TO THEM...
...WE'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO--LIKE DISCUSS YOUR "LUCK"!
MY LUCK?!
SNIFF SNIFF
POLICE DEPT
WHEW--THIS GUY SMELLS LIKE A BREWERY!
YOU MAKE IT SOUND BAD! HOW MANY OTHER GUYS YOU KNOW WHO HIT THE BIG BOYS FOR THREE HUNDRED GRAND?
THAT'S EXACTLY THE LUCK I'M TALKING ABOUT--AND THE WAY THEY 'RE TRYING TO PAY YOU OFF!

SHORTLY, AT A NEARBY HOTEL...
GUYS, THIS IS MY FRIEND JOHNNY GREEN, WHOM I TOLD YOU ABOUT!
"RED" AND "GREEN", EH? YOU GUYS OUGHT TO BE DOING VAUDEVILLE IN THE HOTEL LOUNGE!
HIYA, JOHNNY-- I'M ACE MORGAN!
I ASSUME RED'S EXPLAINED WHY HE BROUGHT YOU HERE!
NOT REALLY.. UNLESS YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO HELP ME COLLECT MY WINNINGS FROM BERNIE!
WELL, IN A WAY WE ARE! BUT WE'RE PRETTY SURE YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH A BEEF TO SETTLE!
WE'VE GOT SOMETHING TO RETURN TO BERNIE--
--THIS PLASTIC GIZMO THAT SET MY PLANE INTO A SPIN LAST WEEKEND NEARLY KILLED ALL FOUR OF US!
NOTE THE KEY WORD--"PLASTIC"!
I'VE GOT TO CONFESS I'M NOT BIG IN THE BRAINS DEPARTMENT, FELLAS!
WHY IS PLASTIC SO IMPORTANT?
3

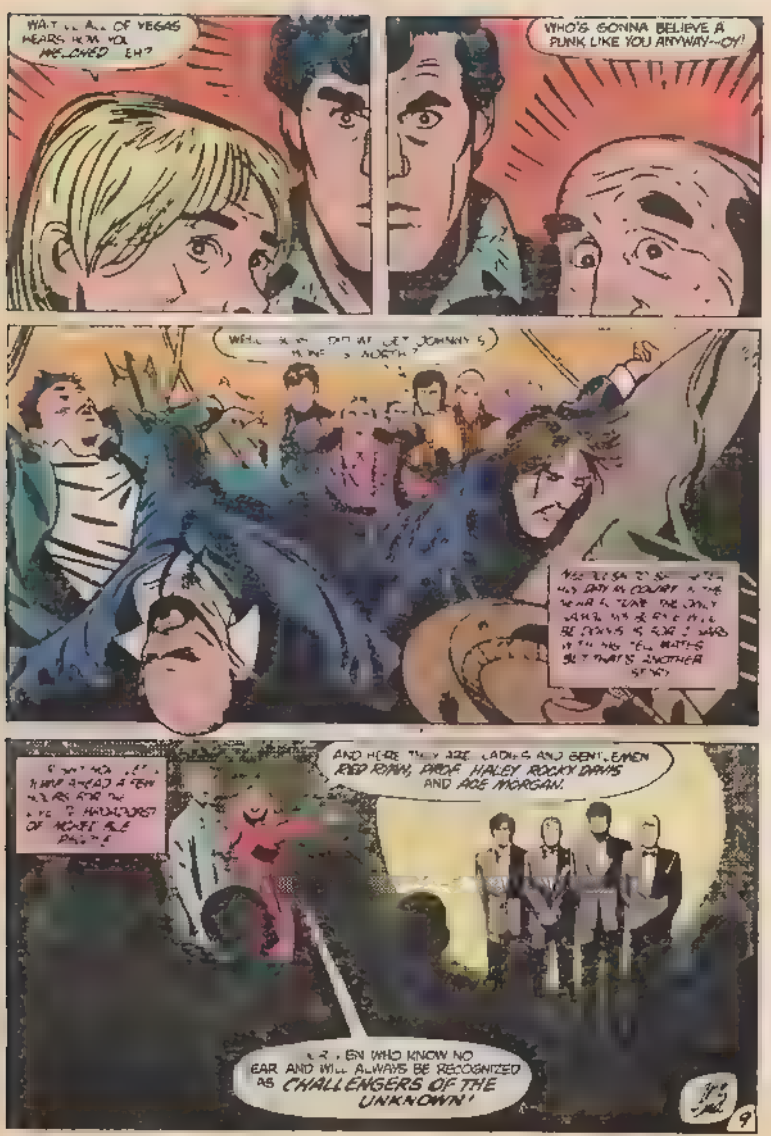
PLASTIC DOESN'T PICK UP ON AIRPORT SECURITY CHECKS!
SO? WHO DOES SECURITY CHECKS FOR PRIVATE PLANES?
NOBODY! BUT THAT GIZMO WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE ON A PRIVATE PLANE! IT WAS IN MY LUGGAGE...
RED--DON'T PLAY GAMES WITH ME! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ON A COMMERCIAL FLIGHT--WITH YOU! OUR PAL BERNIE FIXED IT SO HE WOULDN'T HAVE TO PAY YOU OFF!
BUT THEN I MISSED THE FLIGHT AND YOU HOOKED UP WITH THESE GUYS!
I CAN'T BELIEVE EVEN A BADGER LIKE BERNIE WOULD HAVE KILLED A PLANELOAD OF PEOPLE TO SAVE 300 GRAND!
IT'S BEEN DONE FOR A LOT LESS THAN THAT, PAL!
BUT WHAT ARE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT? HOW ARE YOU GOING TO PROVE IT?!
OH, WE FIGURED WE'D MOSEY ON OVER TO BERNIE'S CASINO AND SEE WHAT DEVELOPED!
AND WE THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO JOIN US!

AND SHORTLY, AFTER A WALK FROM THEIR HOTEL...
TURNER, YOU ARE HOPELESS! IF YOU DIDN'T OWE ME YOUR SALARY FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS ALREADY, I'D KICK YOU OUT OF THIS CASINO SO FAST...
BUT, BERNIE, I DID WHAT YA TOLD ME! IT AIN'T EASY TO CRASH A CAR WITH THAT MUCH TRAFFIC AROU-- OH-OH!
'SCUSE US A MINUTE, BERNIE! WE'D LIKE A FEW WORDS WITH YOUR FRIEND HERE! RECOGNIZE THIS GUY, JOHNNY?
JUST A MINUTE--
--YOU CAN'T PIN NOTHING ON TURNER! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
IF YOU DON'T START TELLIN' THE TRUTH, PAL, THERE'S GONNA BE SOME MORE ACCIDENTS!
AND THE FIRST ONE'S GONNA BE A CHANGE OF LOCATION OF THAT STOOGIE!
5

I...UH...TAKE IT YOU... UH... DON'T LIKE THE SMOKE! I CAN... UH... GIVE IT UP!
OKAY?
MR. DAVIS, HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU NOT TO DO THIS TO PEOPLE? THOSE FISTS OF YOURS ARE DEADLY WEAPONS!
NO MATTER WHAT THIS CHARACTER DID, IF YOU HIT HIM YOU'LL GO TO JAIL!
WE BEEN THROUGH THIS NUMBER BEFORE, PROFESSOR! LAST TIME I TOOK YOUR ADVICE, I GOT USED AS A TARGET, REMEMBER?
WE DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN AGAIN! LET ME CHECK HIM FOR WEAPONS, ROCKY!
HE'S CLEAN! YOU CAN PUT HIM DOWN NOW! GENTLY.
KLUNK
G

WE DON'T LIKE IT WHEN YOU ROUGH UP THE BOSS.
YEAH, IT MAKES IT LOOK AS IF WE AIN'T DOIN' OUR JOB PROTECTIN' HIM.
SO WHO'S GOING TO PROTECT YOU MONKEYS WHEN I WRAP YOUR EARS AROUND YOUR--
TEMPER, TEMPER, ROCKY!
THAT'S RIGHT --REMEMBER WHAT I SAID! YOU CAN'T HIT ANYBODY--
POW!
!
BLAP!
--BUT WE CAN!
THANKS, GUYS, BUT IF YOU DON'T MIND--
JUST KEEP THOSE HANDS DOWN! WE'LL HANDLE THIS!
SMASH!
SLAM
YEAH, RIGHT!
YOIK!
BAM
7

C'MON, PAL--TIME FOR ANOTHER ROCK!
I DON'T THINK SO!
KRRAASHA
WAMP
LOOK--YOUR LUCKY NUMBER JUST CAME UP!
BAM
KAPOW
I WANT MY MONEY, BERNIE... NOW!
YOU AIN'T GETTING A PENNY NOW, KID! I DON'T LIKE BEING INTIMIDATED!
8


WAIT 'LL ALL OF VEGAS HEARS HOW YOU MELCHED EH?
WHO'S GONNA BELIEVE A PUNK LIKE YOU ANYWAY--OY!
AND HERE THEY ARE LADIES AND GENTLEMEN RED RYAN, PADGE HALEY ROCKY DAVIS AND ACE MORGAN!
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN!

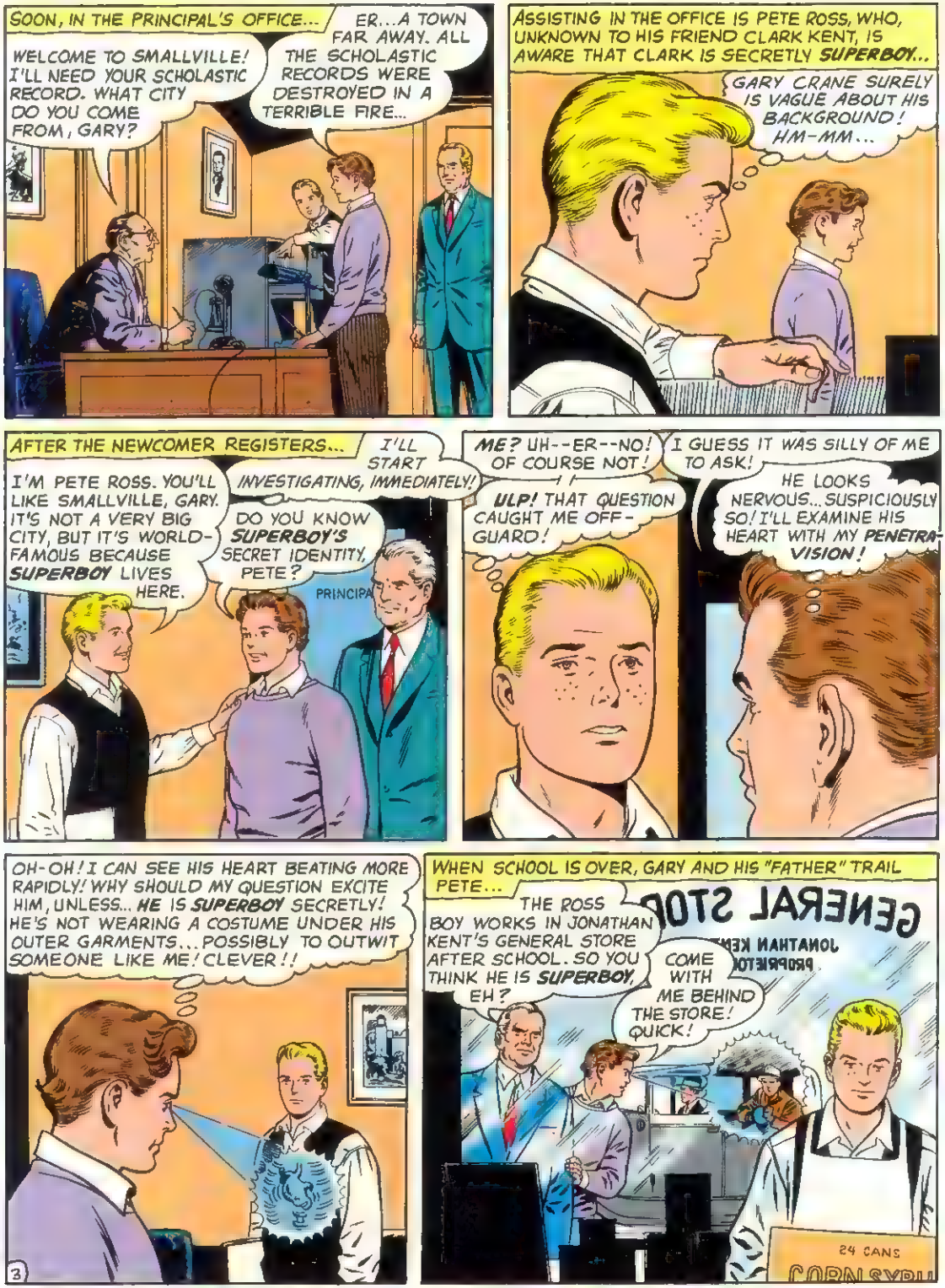
SUPERBOY
The ADVENTURES of SUPERMAN WHEN HE WAS A BOY
KRYPTON HALL
SO YOU'RE THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST BOY, EH? LET'S SEE YOU MELT ONE OF THESE GIANT LEAD SUPERBOY STATUES WITH YOUR HEAT VISION... LIKE I, ULTRA-BOY, AM DOING WITH MY AMAZING PENETRA-VISION!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! MY HEAT VISION CAN'T MELT LEAD!
LIFE ON KRYPTON EXHIBI
;CHOKE;... ULTRA-BOY IS MAKING MY SON LOOK RIDICULOUS AT THE SUPERBOY FAIR WHICH IS BEING HELD IN HIS HONOR!
WHO IS ULTRA-BOY? WHERE DOES HE COME FROM? WHAT DOES HE WANT WITH SUPER-BOY? IS HE MERELY AN ANNOYING TROUBLE-MAKER? OR IS HE ... MUCH WORSE???

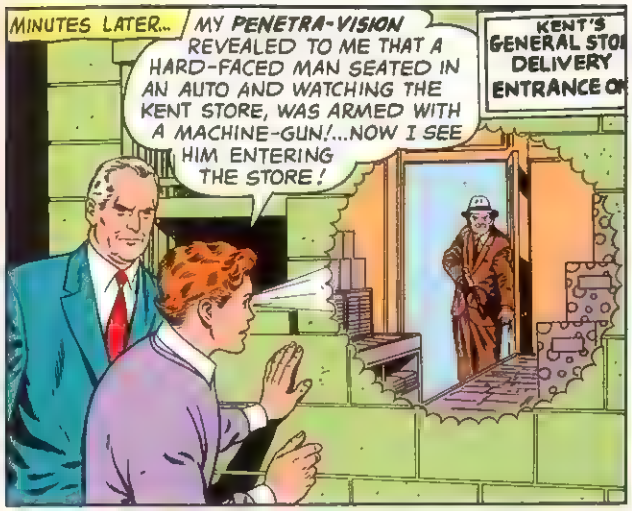
INTO SMALLVILLE ONE DAY COMES A MYSTERIOUS VISITOR. OUTWARDLY, HE LOOKS JUST LIKE ANY OTHER AVERAGE BOY. BUT DON'T BE FOOLED! UNDERNEATH HIS ORDINARY-APPEARING OUTER GARMENTS IN THE COLORFUL ACTION COSTUME OF... ULTRA-BOY, AN ASTOUNDING YOUTH WHO HAS A FANTASTIC POWER EVEN GREATER THAN SUPERBOY'S! HIS MISSION--TO EXPOSE THE BOY OF STEEL'S SECRET IDENTITY!!... WHY IS HE DOING THIS? IS HE JEALOUS OF SUPERBOY'S FAME? DOES HE PLAN TO DESTROY SUPERBOY? YOU'LL FIND THE ASTONISHING ANSWER IN THE SUSPENSEFUL TALE ABOUT...

The BOY with ULTRA-POWERS!

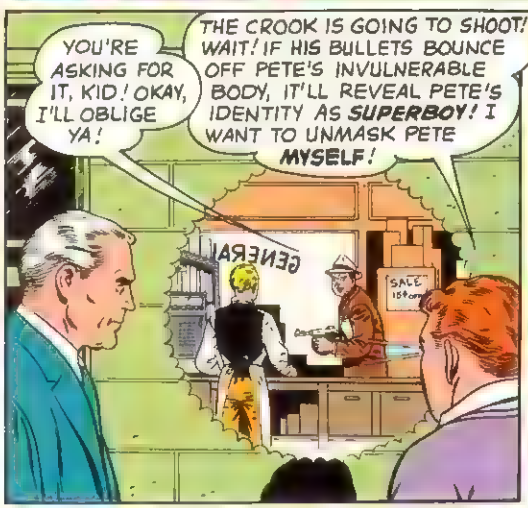
Grimly way home...

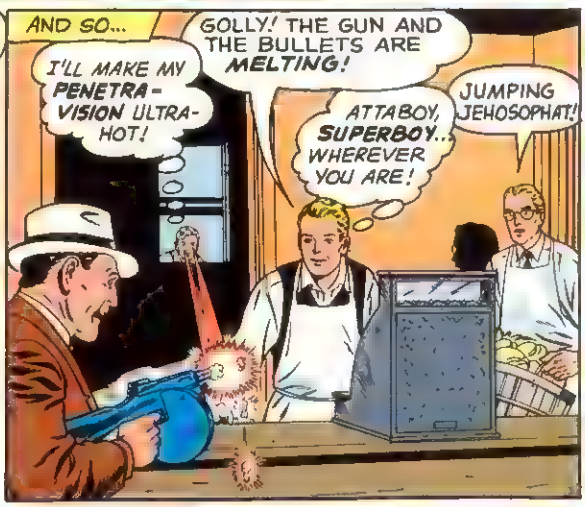
ONE DAY, AS A TRAIN BRINGS TWO NEWCOMERS TO SMALLVILLE...
SO THIS IS WHERE SUPERBOY LIVES!
WE WILL GO DIRECTLY TO THE HOME I RENTED BY TELEPHONE! BE ON GUARD! NO ONE MUST SUSPECT WE ARE... DIFFERENT!
SHORTLY, IN A FURNISHED HOUSE...
OFF WITH OUR OUTER GARMENTS! IT IS TIME TO CONTACT "THE OTHERS" IN OUR REAL IDENTITIES, ULTRA-BOY!
OUR COSTUMES WILL CONVINCE "THEM" THAT WE ARE NOT IMPOSTORS, MARLA! PREPARE THE COSMIC-SCOPE!
MINUTES LATER...
ULTRA-BOY TO HEADQUARTERS! WE ARE NOW IN SMALLVILLE, POSING AS FATHER AND SON! AS PLANNED, MARLA WILL BE KNOWN AS "BEN CRANE"... I SHALL BE--"GARY CRANE"!
TOMORROW, I WILL MAKE THE FIRST MOVE IN MY MISSION TO TRACK DOWN SUPERBOY'S SECRET IDENTITY! I AM WELL AWARE OF THE PENALTY THAT WILL BE MINE SHOULD I... FAIL! I SHALL SUCCEED!!
YOU'D BETTER!
AFTERWARD...
HOW CAN I MISS? MY PENETRA-VISION CAN GENERATE HEAT, SEE GREAT DISTANCES, AND LOOK THROUGH EVERYTHING, INCLUDING LEAD! SUPERBOY'S X-RAY VISION CAN'T SEE THROUGH LEAD!
WHICH GIVES YOU AN ADVANTAGE OVER HIM! EXCELLENT!
NEXT DAY, THE CONSPIRATORS VISIT SMALLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL...
SUPERBOY PROBABLY ATTENDS THIS SCHOOL IN HIS SECRET IDENTITY! BECOMING A STUDENT HERE WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR ME TO UNMASK HIM!
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE SUPERBOY! PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY!
SCHOO

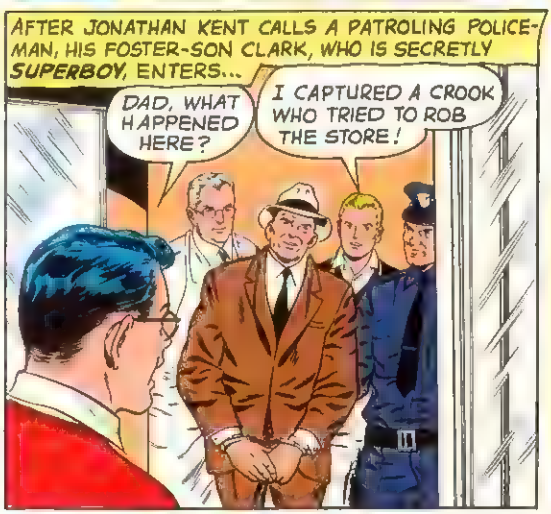

SOON, IN THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE...
WELCOME TO SMALLVILLE! I'LL NEED YOUR SCHOLASTIC RECORD. WHAT CITY DO YOU COME FROM, GARY?
ER...A TOWN FAR AWAY. ALL THE SCHOLASTIC RECORDS WERE DESTROYED IN A TERRIBLE FIRE...
ASSISTING IN THE OFFICE IS PETE ROSS, WHO, UNKNOWN TO HIS FRIEND CLARK KENT, IS AWARE THAT CLARK IS SECRETLY SUPERBOY...
GARY CRANE SURELY IS VAGUE ABOUT HIS BACKGROUND! HM-MM...
AFTER THE NEWCOMER REGISTERS...
I'M PETE ROSS. YOU'LL LIKE SMALLVILLE, GARY. IT'S NOT A VERY BIG CITY, BUT IT'S WORLD-FAMOUS BECAUSE SUPERBOY LIVES HERE.
I'LL START INVESTIGATING, IMMEDIATELY!
DO YOU KNOW SUPERBOY'S SECRET IDENTITY, PETE?
PRINCIPA
ME? UH--ER--NO! OF COURSE NOT!
ULP! THAT QUESTION CAUGHT ME OFF-GUARD!
I GUESS IT WAS SILLY OF ME TO ASK!
HE LOOKS NERVOUS...SUSPICIOUSLY SO! I'LL EXAMINE HIS HEART WITH MY PENETRA-VISION!
OH-OH! I CAN SEE HIS HEART BEATING MORE RAPIDLY! WHY SHOULD MY QUESTION EXCITE HIM, UNLESS... HE IS SUPERBOY SECRETLY! HE'S NOT WEARING A COSTUME UNDER HIS OUTER GARMENTS...POSSIBLY TO OUTWIT SOMEONE LIKE ME! CLEVER!!
3
WHEN SCHOOL IS OVER, GARY AND HIS "FATHER" TRAIL PETE...
THE ROSS BOY WORKS IN JONATHAN KENT'S GENERAL STORE AFTER SCHOOL. SO YOU THINK HE IS SUPERBOY, EH?
COME WITH ME BEHIND THE STORE! QUICK!
GENERAL STOR
24 CANS

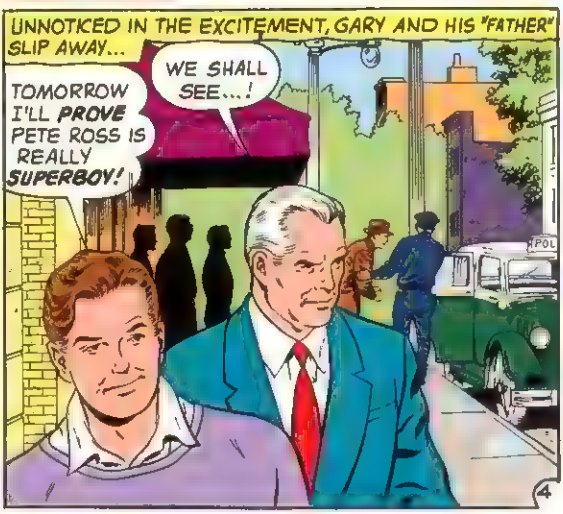

MINUTES LATER...
MY PENETRA-VISION REVEALED TO ME THAT A HARD-FACED MAN SEATED IN AN AUTO AND WATCHING THE KENT STORE, WAS ARMED WITH A MACHINE-GUN!...NOW I SEE HIM ENTERING THE STORE!
KENT'S GENERAL STO
DELIVERY ENTRANCE O

INSIDE THE STORE, WHILE PA KENT IS DOWN IN THE BASEMENT STOCKROOM...
STOCKRO
HAND OVER THE MONEY! DON'T TRY TO ACT LIKE A HERO, IF YOU WANT TO LIVE!
GET OUT! I WON'T GIVE YOU ONE CENT!


YOU'RE ASKING FOR IT, KID! OKAY, I'LL OBLIGE YA!
THE CROOK IS GOING TO SHOOT! WAIT! IF HIS BULLETS BOUNCE OFF PETE'S INVULNERABLE BODY, IT'LL REVEAL PETE'S IDENTITY AS SUPERBOY! I WANT TO UNMASK PETE MYSELF!
GENERAL
SALE 15¢ one

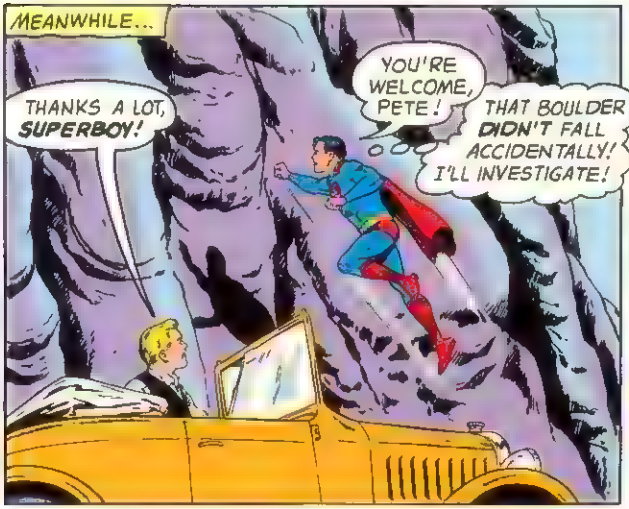

AND SO...
I'LL MAKE MY PENETRA-VISION ULTRA-HOT!
GOLLY! THE GUN AND THE BULLETS ARE MELTING!
ATTABOY, SUPERBOY... WHEREVER YOU ARE!
JUMPING JEHOSOPHAT!


AFTER JONATHAN KENT CALLS A PATROLING POLICE-MAN, HIS FOSTER-SON CLARK, WHO IS SECRETLY SUPERBOY, ENTERS...
DAD, WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
I CAPTURED A CROOK WHO TRIED TO ROB THE STORE!


UNNOTICED IN THE EXCITEMENT, GARY AND HIS "FATHER" SLIP AWAY...
TOMORROW I'LL PROVE PETE ROSS IS REALLY SUPERBOY!
WE SHALL SEE...!
POL

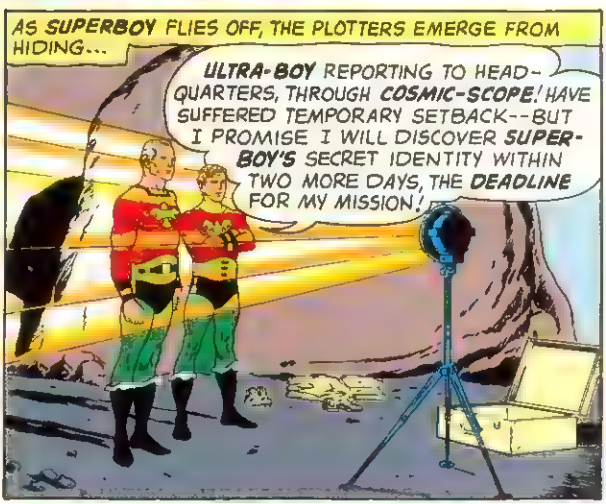
SOON AFTERWARD, IN THE GENERAL STORE...
MR. KENT IS TAKING CLARK ASIDE, SO I CAN'T OVERHEAR THEM. THEY DON'T WANT ME TO CATCH ON THAT CLARK IS SUPERBOY! WOULD THEY BE SHOCKED TO LEARN I ALREADY KNOW!
STOCKROOM
GREAT WORK, SON! PETE WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED IF YOU HADN'T MELTED THAT ROBBER'S GUN SECRETLY, WITH YOUR HEAT VISION!
WAIT! I DIDN'T DO IT! ...HMM... I'VE GOT A THEORY...
REACHING HOME, CLARK QUESTIONS HIS SUPERBOY ROBOTS...
NICE GOING, ROBOTS! WHICH OF YOU SAVED PETE ROSS' LIFE TODAY WITH YOUR HEAT VISION?
NONE OF US, MASTER! WE DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
STARTLED, CLARK RETURNS TO HIS FATHER'S STORE...
PETE'S GONE NOW. WHAT IS IT, SON?
GREAT GUNS! MY MICROSCOPIC VISION REVEALS THAT THIS SLAG ON THE FLOOR IS MELTED LEAD! SOMEONE MELTED THE CROOK'S LEAD BULLETS! I CAN'T MELT LEAD WITH MY X-RAY VISION! NEITHER CAN MY ROBOTS!
WHOEVER SAVED PETE, MAY BE MORE POWERFUL THAN ME! WHO DID THIS? I'M--BAFFLED!
BEATS ME!
ON A MOUNTAIN-TOP THE NEXT DAY, ULTRA-BOY, ALIAS "GARY CRANE", SPEAKS TO MARLA, ALIAS "BEN CRANE"...
PETE ROSS IS DRIVING THE AUTO ON THAT ROAD BELOW! I WILL NOW PROVE HE IS SUPERBOY!
PROCEED!
5

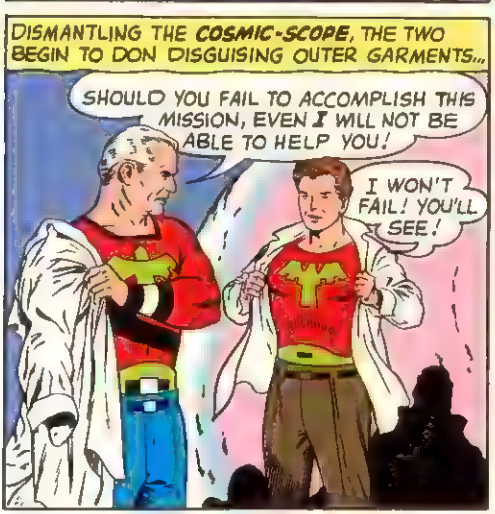
MY PENETRA-VISION IS MELTING THE BOTTOM OF THAT GREAT BOULDER ON THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROAD! DISLODGED, THE BOULDER IS STARTING TO FALL...!
THE BOULDER CRASHED DOWN BEFORE PETE'S CAR, ULTRA-BOY, BLOCKING THE ROAD!
BELIEVING HIMSELF UNSEEN, PETE WILL USE HIS SUPER-STRENGTH TO TOSS THE BOULDER ASIDE AND I'LL HAVE MY PROOF THAT HE'S SUPER-BOY!
BUT TO THE AMAZEMENT OF THE CONSPIRATORS...
SUPERBOY! AM I LUCKY YOU'RE FLYING BY ON PATROL!-- WILL YOU PLEASE GET RID OF THIS BOULDER?
GLADLY, PETE!
GASP!... I WAS WRONG ABOUT PETE!! HE... ISN'T... SUPERBOY!!
AS THE BOY OF STEEL LIFTS THE GREAT ROCK...
STRANGE THAT THE BOULDER FELL!... THIS AREA WAS APPROVED FOR SAFETY RECENTLY BY THE HIGHWAY COMMISSION!...?! THE BOULDER--IT'S MELTED PARTIALLY!
WHERE'LL I TOSS IT? OH-OH! MY SUPER-VISION SIGHTS A DISTANT EMERGENCY WHERE THIS HUGE ROCK WILL COME IN HANDY! I'LL THROW IT AT JUST THE RIGHT SPEED...
...SO THAT THE BOULDER WILL PLOP DOWN AND WEDGE SECURELY INTO THE HOLE WHICH JUST APPEARED IN THE SMALLVILLE DAM! THE TOWN WON'T BE FLOODED, AND REPAIR-MEN WILL FIX THE DAM PERMANENTLY, LATER!
SMALLVILLE'S ...SAVED!!

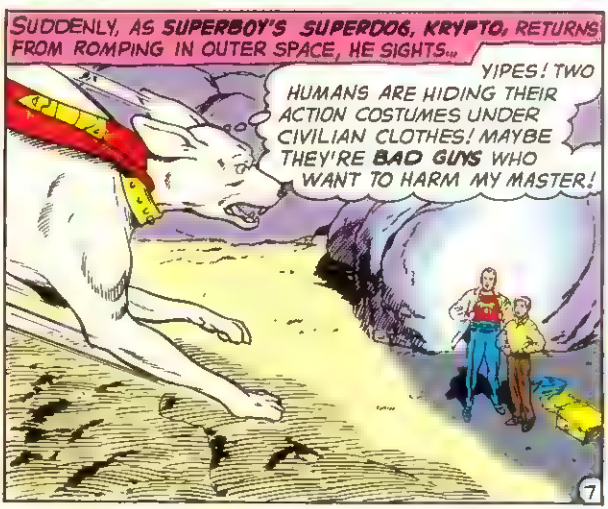

MEANWHILE...
THANKS A LOT, SUPERBOY!
YOU'RE WELCOME, PETE!
THAT BOULDER DIDN'T FALL ACCIDENTALLY! I'LL INVESTIGATE!

MOMENTS LATER...
THAT BOULDER FELL FROM THIS SPOT, AND A DEPOSIT OF SLAG STILL REMAINS!
SLAG-FROM THE BOULDER? MY MICROSCOPIC VISION REVEALS THIS BOULDER CONTAINED...MELTED LEAD ORE!!

GREAT KRYPTON! SOMEWHERE, THERE EXISTS SOMEONE WHO CAN MELT LEAD BULLETS, AND LEAD ORE--SOMETHING EVEN MY HEAT VISION CAN'T DO! WHO IS THAT PERSON? WHY DOES HE OPERATE SECRETLY? WHAT'S HIS GAME??


AS SUPERBOY FLIES OFF, THE PLOTTERS EMERGE FROM HIDING...
ULTRA-BOY REPORTING TO HEADQUARTERS, THROUGH COSMIC-SCOPE! HAVE SUFFERED TEMPORARY SETBACK--BUT I PROMISE I WILL DISCOVER SUPERBOY'S SECRET IDENTITY WITHIN TWO MORE DAYS, THE DEADLINE FOR MY MISSION!

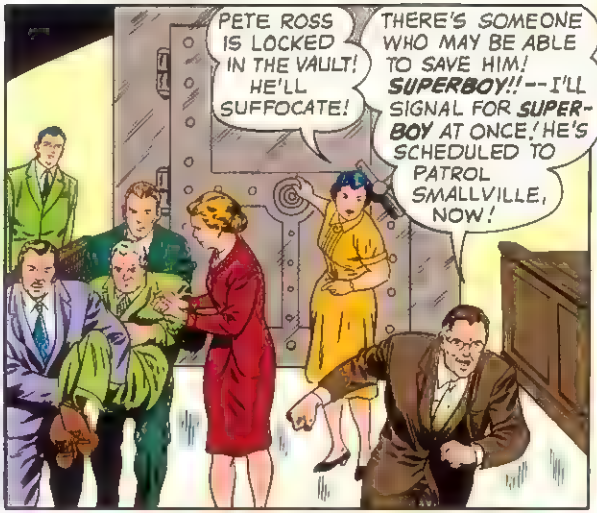

DISMANTLING THE COSMIC-SCOPE, THE TWO BEGIN TO DON DISGUISING OUTER GARMENTS...
SHOULD YOU FAIL TO ACCOMPLISH THIS MISSION, EVEN I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HELP YOU!
I WON'T FAIL! YOU'LL SEE!


SUDDENLY, AS SUPERBOY'S SUPERDOG, KRYPTO, RETURNS FROM ROMPING IN OUTER SPACE, HE SIGHTS...
YIPES! TWO HUMANS ARE HIDING THEIR ACTION COSTUMES UNDER CIVILIAN CLOTHES! MAYBE THEY'RE BAD GUYS WHO WANT TO HARM MY MASTER!

GROWWWL!
I'LL FLY THEM TO SMALLVILLE, THEN RIP OFF THEIR OUTER GARMENTS AND EXPOSE THEIR COSTUMES UNDERNEATH TO EVERYBODY!
IT'S KRYPTO... SUPERBOY'S PET! IF HE SAW US SWITCH IDENTITIES...!
LEAVE HIM TO ME!
BUT THE NEXT MOMENT...
HA, HA, HA! I'M GIVING HIM A HOT FOOT WITH THE HEAT OF MY MIGHTY PENETRA-VISION! LOOK AT HIM FLEEING BACK TOWARD OUTER SPACE, HA, HA!
AOOWRRFFF!
AMAZING! THAT BOY'S HEAT VISION HURTS ME!!
THE FOLLOWING DAY, IN SMALLVILLE...
I'M RIGHT BACK WHERE I STARTED! HERE COMES CLARK KENT WITH LANA LANG, TWO STUDENTS I'VE SEEN AT SMALLVILLE HIGH!
CLARK'S A DRIP! LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!...PS-ST, PSS-ST!
DONALD MAC
Photographe
HEY--!
HAW, HAW!
YOU LITTLE MONSTERS! STOP IT! THAT'S NOT FUNNY! YOU CAN HURT SOMEONE BADLY THAT WAY!
I'LL WHINE, SO LANA WILL THINK I'M A MEEK LAMB AND FORGET HER SUSPICION THAT I'M SECRETLY SUPERBOY!
IT'S DISGUSTING! YOU'RE SO TIMID, THAT YOU'RE AFRAID OF KIDS HALF YOUR AGE! HERE... TAKE YOUR GLASSES! LUCKILY, THEY DIDN'T BREAK!
LEAVE ME ALONE!
"DIDN'T BREAK"?!
THEY COULDN'T BREAK BECAUSE THE LENSES ARE MADE OF AN UNBREAKABLE MATERIAL TAKEN FROM THE ROCKETSHIP THAT BROUGHT ME TO EARTH FROM KRYPTON AS A BABY!
BY THE THREE PURPLE MOONS OF RIMBOR...!
8

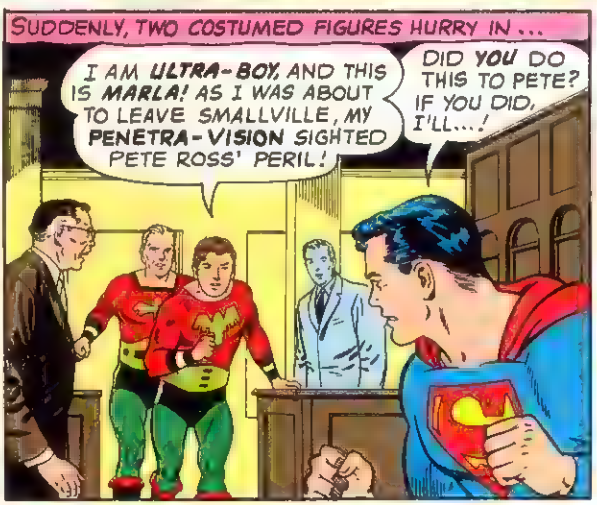
PERHAPS KENT'S GLASSES WEREN'T DESTROYED BECAUSE THE LENSES ARE MADE OF SHATTER-PROOF GLASS FROM KRYPTON! CLARK MAY BE WEARING GLASSES MERELY FOR A DISGUISE!
HM-MM! IF I WANTED TO FOOL PEOPLE INTO THINKING I WASN'T SUPERBOY, I WOULD PRETEND TO BE A MEEK, MILD NOBODY LIKE CLARK KENT!-- I'LL USE MY PENETRA-VISION TO CHECK ON HIM!
GASP!! INCREDIBLE! I CAN SEE THE BOY OF STEEL'S ACTION COSTUME UNDERNEATH CLARK'S OUTER GARMENTS!... CLARK KENT IS-- SUPERBOY!!
HUH?!!-- WHAT THE DEVIL!
DONALD MACE PHOTOGRAPHER
HEARING THE NEARBY SHOUT, CLARK USES HIS X-RAY VISION AND SUPER-HEARING TO FIND OUT IF AN EMERGENCY EXISTS...
THIS IS CRAZY! ALL THE NEGATIVES WE'VE BEEN DEVELOPING IN THIS DARK ROOM SUDDENLY BECAME FOGGED! THEY'RE RUINED!
CLARK IS STRUCK BY AN UNPLEASANT POSSIBILITY...
THOSE NEGATIVES COULD HAVE BEEN SPOILED BY SOMETHING SIMILAR TO MY X-RAY VISION! THAT NEW BOY IN TOWN...GARY CRANE...WAS GLANCING THIS WAY A MOMENT AGO!... IS IT POSSIBLE--???
GREAT KRYPTON! MY X-RAY VISION REVEALS GARY HAS A SECRET IDENTITY! I WONDER--IS HE FRIEND OR FOE? SHALL I FORCE THE TRUTH OUT OF HIM? NO! HE'S BOUND TO TIP HIS HAND SOON!
9

THAT EVENING, AS PETE ROSS READS THE LATEST ENTRY IN HIS DIARY...
"HOW CLEVERLY SUPERBOY ALWAYS OUTSMARTS PEOPLE TRYING TO DISCOVER HIS SECRET IDENTITY! I FOUND OUT THAT HE'S CLARK KENT PURELY BY ACCIDENT! I'M THE ONLY ONE IN SMALLVILLE WHO KNOWS HIS SECRET!"
DIARY
GOSH, IF MY DIARY EVER FELL INTO THE WRONG HANDS, IT WOULD BETRAY MY PAL'S SECRET, AND CROOKS COULD FORCE HIM TO OBEY THEM, OR THREATEN TO HARM HIS PARENTS. I MUST HIDE MY DIARY IN A SAFE PLACE!
NEXT DAY, AT THE TOWN'S NEWEST BANK...
THE ANNUAL FEE FOR A SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX IS SIX DOLLARS. IT'S RATHER UNUSUAL FOR A BOY YOUR AGE TO RENT ONE.
IS THE BOX BURGLAR-PROOF?
MR. E.W. LEMLEY BANK MANAGER
THIEVES WON'T DARE TRY TO ROB US! THIS METAL VAULT DOOR IS EQUIPPED WITH AN AUTOMATIC DEVICE WHICH WILL EXPLODE AND INJURE ANY CRIMINALS FORCING OPEN THE LOCKED DOOR!
GOOD! MY DIARY WILL BE SAFE FROM PRYING EYES HERE.
MINUTES LATER, AS PETE IS PLACING HIS DIARY IN HIS SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX...
M-MY HEART! HELP!...UHHHN!
THE VAULT DOOR IS SWINGING SHUT!!
MR. LEMLEY HAS SUFFERED ANOTHER HEART-ATTACK! LAST TIME, HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS FOR DAYS! WE'LL RUSH HIM TO THE HOSPITAL!
LOOK! THE VAULT DOOR CLOSED WHEN MR. LEMLEY FELL AGAINST IT. AND THE TIME-LOCK WON'T OPEN AUTOMATICALLY, FOR TWELVE HOURS! ONLY MR. LEMLEY KNOWS THE COMBI-NATION FOR THE VAULT'S LOCK!
10

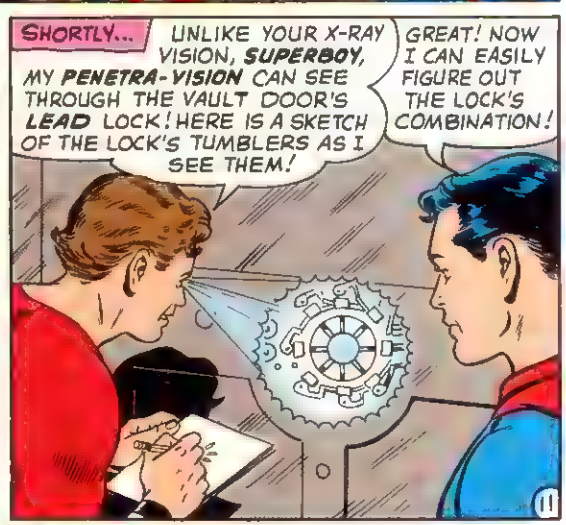

PETE ROSS IS LOCKED IN THE VAULT! HE'LL SUFFOCATE!
THERE'S SOMEONE WHO MAY BE ABLE TO SAVE HIM! SUPERBOY!!--I'LL SIGNAL FOR SUPERBOY AT ONCE! HE'S SCHEDULED TO PATROL SMALLVILLE, NOW!

MINUTES LATER, ON THE BANK'S ROOF...
YOU'VE RAISED THE SUPERBOY FLAG TO SHOW YOU NEED HELP! WHAT'S WRONG?
A BOY'S LIFE IS AT STAKE! HE'S PETE ROSS! I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING!

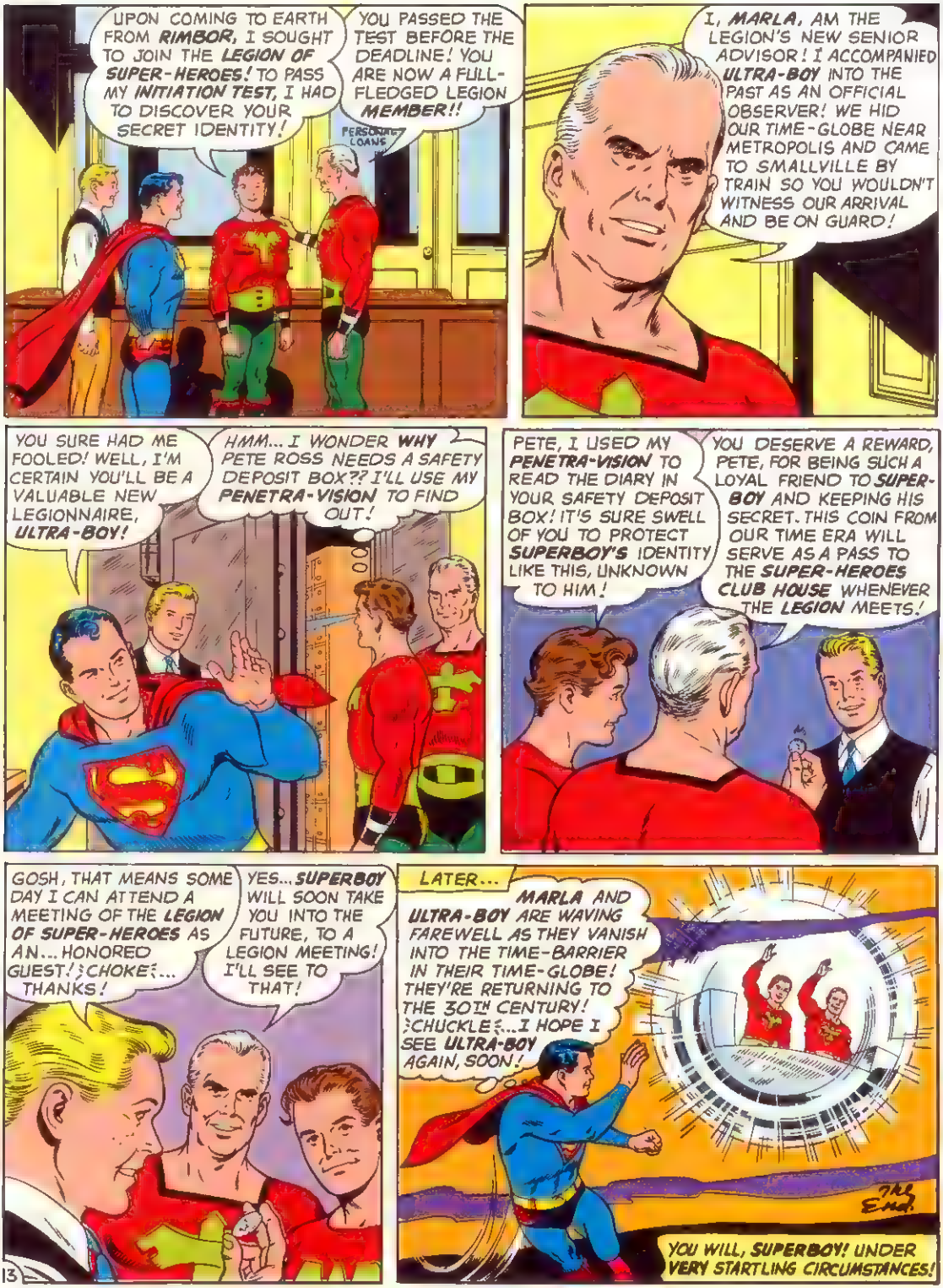
PRESENTLY...
IF I FORCE THE VAULT DOOR OPEN, THE PROTECTIVE EXPLOSIVE-DEVICE WILL GO OFF! I CAN'T LOOK THROUGH THE LEAD LOCK TO FIGURE OUT THE COMBINATION, BECAUSE MY X-RAY VISION CAN'T SEE THROUGH LEAD!


SUDDENLY, TWO COSTUMED FIGURES HURRY IN ...
I AM ULTRA-BOY, AND THIS IS MARLA! AS I WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE SMALLVILLE, MY PENETRA-VISION SIGHTED PETE ROSS' PERIL!
DID YOU DO THIS TO PETE? IF YOU DID, I'LL....!

TRUST ME! I WON'T HARM EITHER YOU OR PETE! ASK THESE OTHERS TO LEAVE... AND I WILL SAVE HIM WITH A SUPER-POWER EVEN MIGHTIER THAN YOUR SUPER-VISION!
WE'LL GO...


SHORTLY...
UNLIKE YOUR X-RAY VISION, SUPERBOY, MY PENETRA-VISION CAN SEE THROUGH THE VAULT DOOR'S LEAD LOCK! HERE IS A SKETCH OF THE LOCK'S TUMBLERS AS I SEE THEM!
GREAT! NOW I CAN EASILY FIGURE OUT THE LOCK'S COMBINATION!

AS SUPERBOY DIALS THE CORRECT COMBINATION...
I'M...FREE! THANKS, SUPERBOY!
WHO ARE YOU, ULTRA-BOY? WHERE DO YOU COME FROM? WHY ARE YOU HERE? HOW'D YOU GET YOUR PENETRA-VISION??
"CHUCKLE!...ONE QUESTION AT A TIME, SUPERBOY! WHO AM I? MY NAME IS JO-NAH, AND I AM FROM THE DISTANT PLANET RIMBOR! ONCE, AS I TRAVELED THROUGH OUTER SPACE..."
YAAA-AAAAA! AN ENERGY-BEAST! IT'S S-SWALLOWING ME!!
"FORTUNATELY FOR ME, A GALACTIC PATROL CRUISER SAW MY PERIL, AND RESCUED ME...!"
THEY SLICED OPEN THE CREATURE, WITH A RAY! I'VE ESCAPED! BUT...MY BODY... FEELS--STRANGE! STRANGE!!!
I SOON LEARNED THAT RADIATIONS FROM THE ENERGY-BEAST HAD GIVEN ME THE AMAZING POWER OF...PENETRA-VISION! I USED MY NEW-FOUND ABILITY, IN BEHALF OF THE LAW! BEFORE LONG, EVERYONE CALLED ME...ULTRA-BOY!!
WHAT AN ASTOUNDING COINCIDENCE! YOU, JO-NAH, WERE SWALLOWED BY A SPACE CREATURE! HERE ON EARTH, THEY TELL THE TALE OF JONAH, WHO WAS SWALLOWED BY A WHALE! HE, TOO, MANAGED TO ESCAPE!
REMARKABLE!
WHY AM I IN SMALLVILLE? I CAME HERE THROUGH THE TIME-BARRIER FROM THE 30TH CENTURY, TO DISCOVER YOUR SECRET IDENTITY, AND I HAVE SUCCEEDED! DON'T WORRY! I WON'T TELL IT TO PETE OR ANYONE ELSE!
THEY DON'T REALIZE I ALREADY KNOW!
12


UPON COMING TO EARTH FROM RIMBOR, I SOUGHT TO JOIN THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES! TO PASS MY INITIATION TEST, I HAD TO DISCOVER YOUR SECRET IDENTITY!
YOU PASSED THE TEST BEFORE THE DEADLINE! YOU ARE NOW A FULL-FLEDGED LEGION MEMBER!!
PERSONAL LOANS
I, MARLA, AM THE LEGION'S NEW SENIOR ADVISOR! I ACCOMPANIED ULTRA-BOY INTO THE PAST AS AN OFFICIAL OBSERVER! WE HID OUR TIME-GLOBE NEAR METROPOLIS AND CAME TO SMALLVILLE BY TRAIN SO YOU WOULDN'T WITNESS OUR ARRIVAL AND BE ON GUARD!
YOU SURE HAD ME FOOLED! WELL, I'M CERTAIN YOU'LL BE A VALUABLE NEW LEGIONNAIRE, ULTRA-BOY!
HMM... I WONDER WHY PETE ROSS NEEDS A SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX?? I'LL USE MY PENETRA-VISION TO FIND OUT!
PETE, I USED MY PENETRA-VISION TO READ THE DIARY IN YOUR SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX! IT'S SURE SWELL OF YOU TO PROTECT SUPERBOY'S IDENTITY LIKE THIS, UNKNOWN TO HIM!
YOU DESERVE A REWARD, PETE, FOR BEING SUCH A LOYAL FRIEND TO SUPER-BOY AND KEEPING HIS SECRET. THIS COIN FROM OUR TIME ERA WILL SERVE AS A PASS TO THE SUPER-HEROES CLUB HOUSE WHENEVER THE LEGION MEETS!
GOSH, THAT MEANS SOME DAY I CAN ATTEND A MEETING OF THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES AS AN... HONORED GUEST! ;CHOKE;... THANKS!
YES... SUPERBOY WILL SOON TAKE YOU INTO THE FUTURE, TO A LEGION MEETING! I'LL SEE TO THAT!
LATER...
MARLA AND ULTRA-BOY ARE WAVING FAREWELL AS THEY VANISH INTO THE TIME-BARRIER IN THEIR TIME-GLOBE! THEY'RE RETURNING TO THE 30TH CENTURY! ;CHUCKLE;... I HOPE I SEE ULTRA-BOY AGAIN, SOON!
THE END
YOU WILL, SUPERBOY! UNDER VERY STARTLING CIRCUMSTANCES!

THE FOLLOWING STORY WAS WRITTEN BY STEVE SKEATES, DRAWN BY JIM APARO, INKED BY AN INKER AND EDITED BY DICK GIORDANO
AQUAMAN
THE EXPLANATION!

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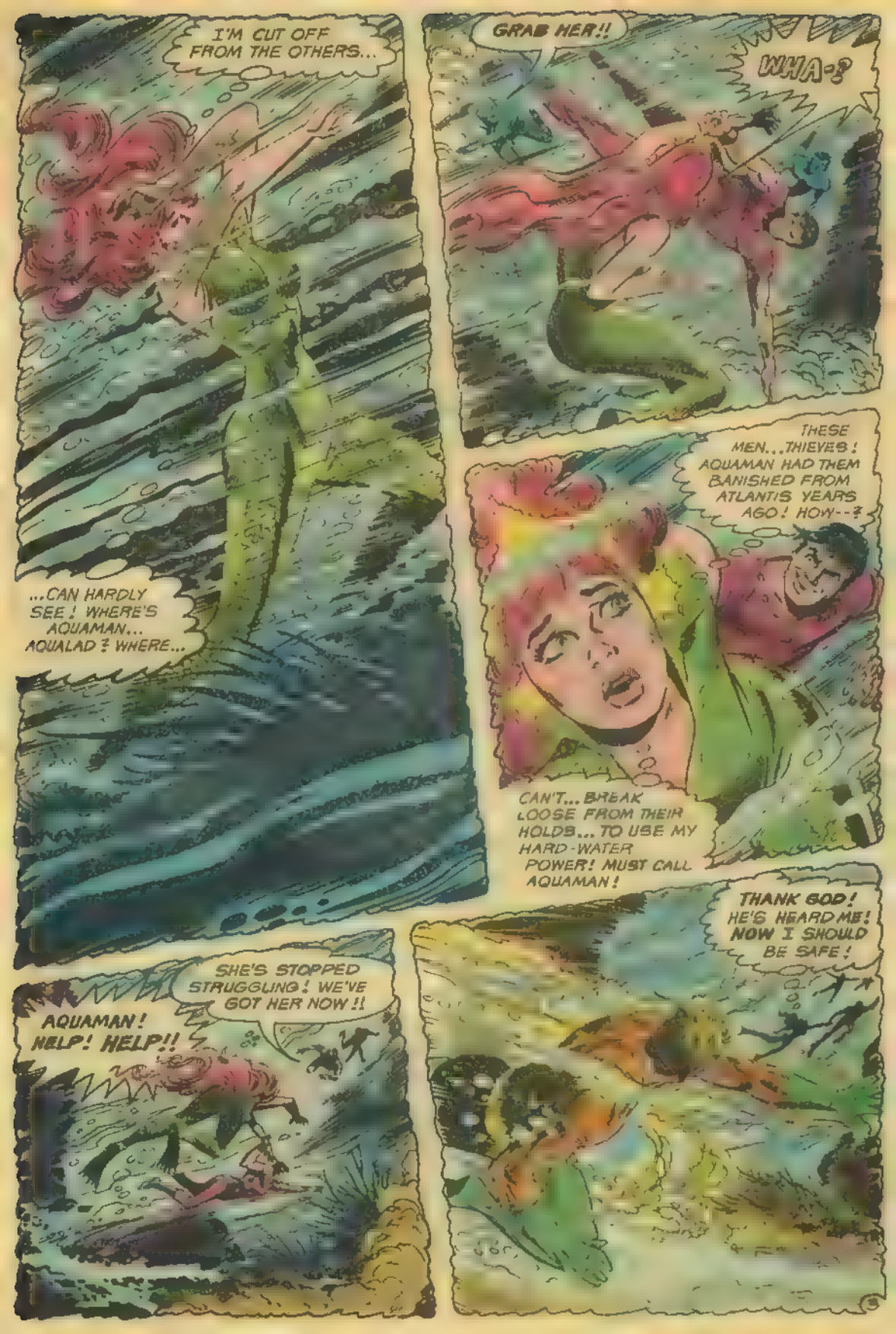
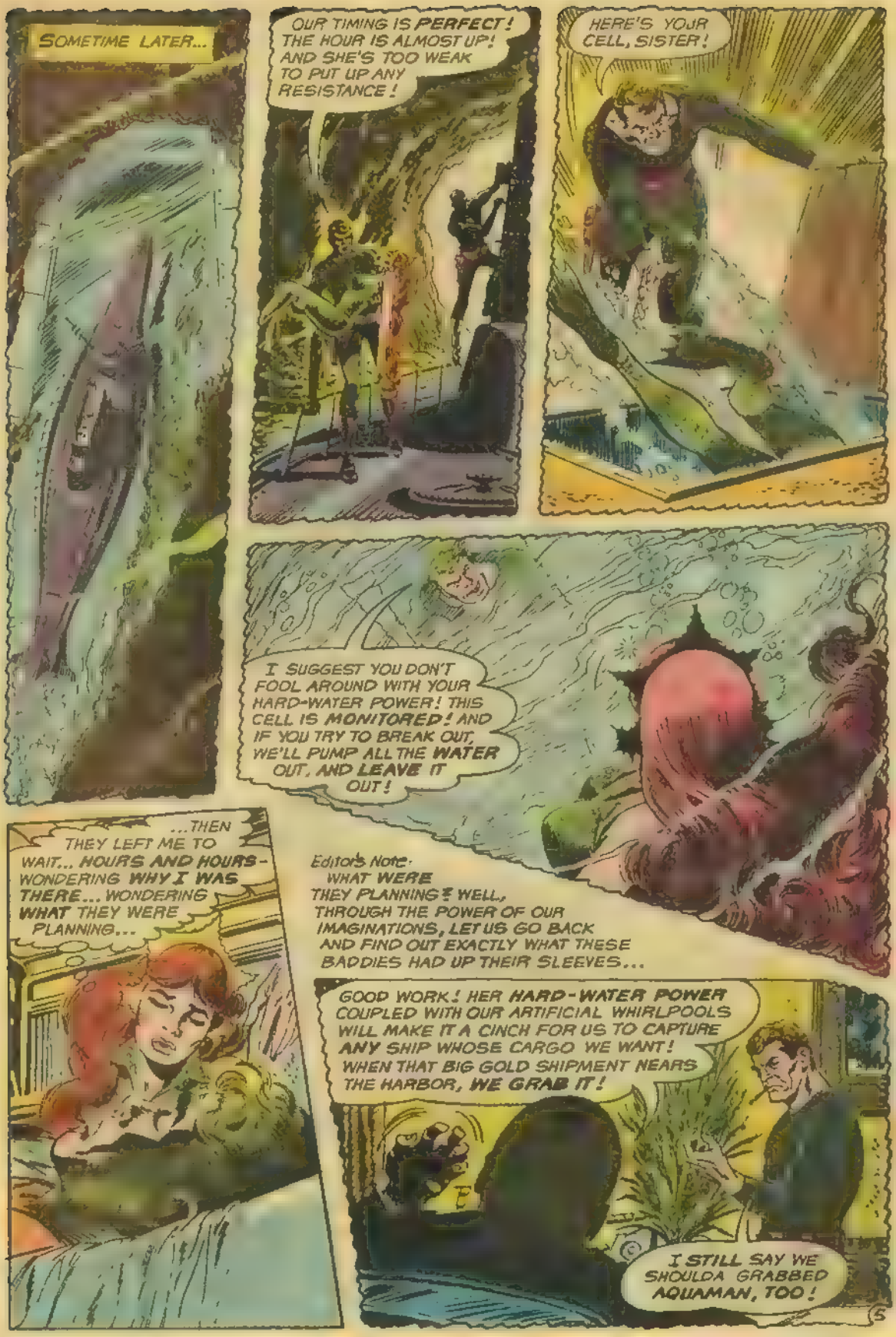
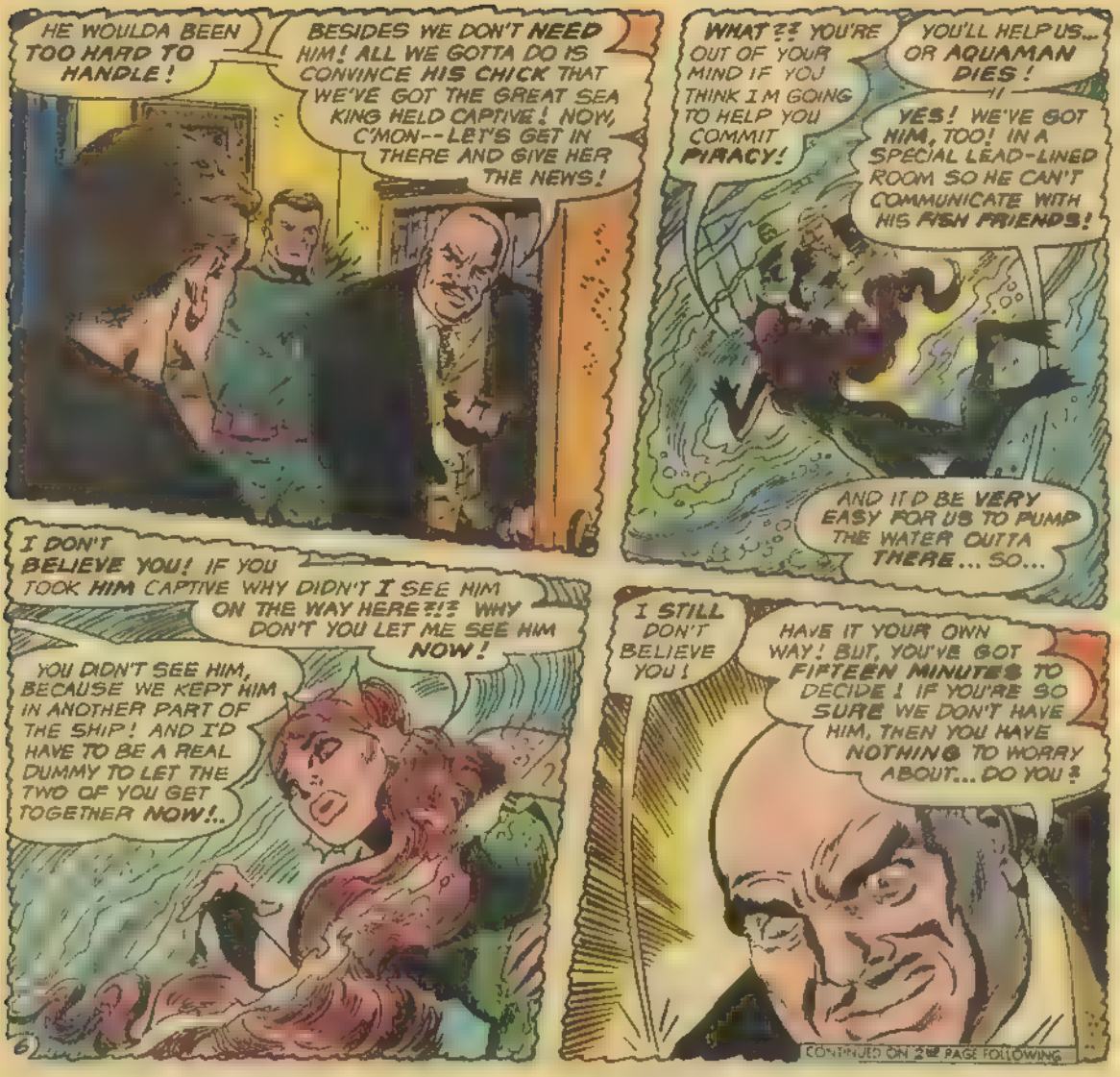
AS THE RISING SUN HERALDS THE DAWN OF A NEW DAY, AN AMBULANCE RACES THROUGH THE SLEEPING CITY...
...AND SLOWLY, THE MOTION OF THE CAREENING VEHICLE JARS THE SEA KING BACK TO CONSCIOUSNESS...
MERA! IT...IT IS YOU!
BUT... BUT HOW? HOW DID YOU GET HERE? WHAT...
HUSH... I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING LATER... AFTER THE DOCTOR'S EXAMINED YOU! NOW, TRY TO REST...
AS AQUAMAN DRIFTS INTO A TROUBLED REST, THE SEA QUEEN'S THOUGHTS FLOAT BACK... AND, IN HER MIND, RELIVES THE SHOCK AND THE HORROR OF THE EVENTS GONE BY...
IT SEEMS UNREAL NOW... A NIGHTMARE!
AND YET... IT REALLY DID HAPPEN! IT WAS ALL REAL!
KEEP A FIRM GRIP ON AQUABABY, TADPOLE! WE MUST FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS SWIRLING MADNESS!


I'M CUT OFF FROM THE OTHERS...
...CAN HARDLY SEE! WHERE'S AQUAMAN... AQUALAD? WHERE...
GRAB HER!!
WHA-?
THESE MEN...THIEVES! AQUAMAN HAD THEM BANISHED FROM ATLANTIS YEARS AGO! HOW--?
CAN'T... BREAK LOOSE FROM THEIR HOLDS... TO USE MY HARD-WATER POWER! MUST CALL AQUAMAN!
SHE'S STOPPED STRUGGLING! WE'VE GOT HER NOW!!
AQUAMAN! HELP! HELP!!
THANK GOD! HE'S HEARD ME! NOW I SHOULD BE SAFE!

"AS AQUAMAN QUICKLY CLOSED THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US, ONE OF MY CAPTORS HUNG BACK, AND AQUAMAN, WEAKENED BY THE WHIRLPOOL, WAS RENDERED UNCONSCIOUS WITH A SINGLE PUNCH AND I WAS PULLED AWAY... UNTIL, AT LAST, AQUAMAN WAS NO LONGER IN SIGHT..."
A SUB! THEY MUST HAVE USED IT TO CREATE THE SWIRLING WATER! AND SURFACE MEN--THEY'RE THE ONES BEHIND THIS!
QUICK! GIT HER ABOARD!
Oooo
STILL TOO WEAK...CAN'T FIGHT BACK!
THAT'S IT! MAKE IT REAL TIGHT!
NOW LISTEN SISTER!.. WE KNOW ABOUT YOUR ONE HOUR LIMIT! AND, IF YOU GIVE US ANY HASSLE, WE'LL LEAVE YUH OUTTA WATER TILL YOU DIE! UNDERSTAND??
WHAT OF OUR REWARD? WE WERE TOLD WE WOULD BE PAID WELL!
DON'T BUG ME ABOUT THAT! TALK TO NARKRAN.. HE'S YOUR BOSS!
NARKRAN??
THE ATLANTEAN OFFICIAL AQUAMAN TRUSTS ABOVE ALL OTHERS... THE ONE HE MADE DEPUTY LEADER!
THIS CAN'T BE! NONE OF THIS MAKES SENSE!

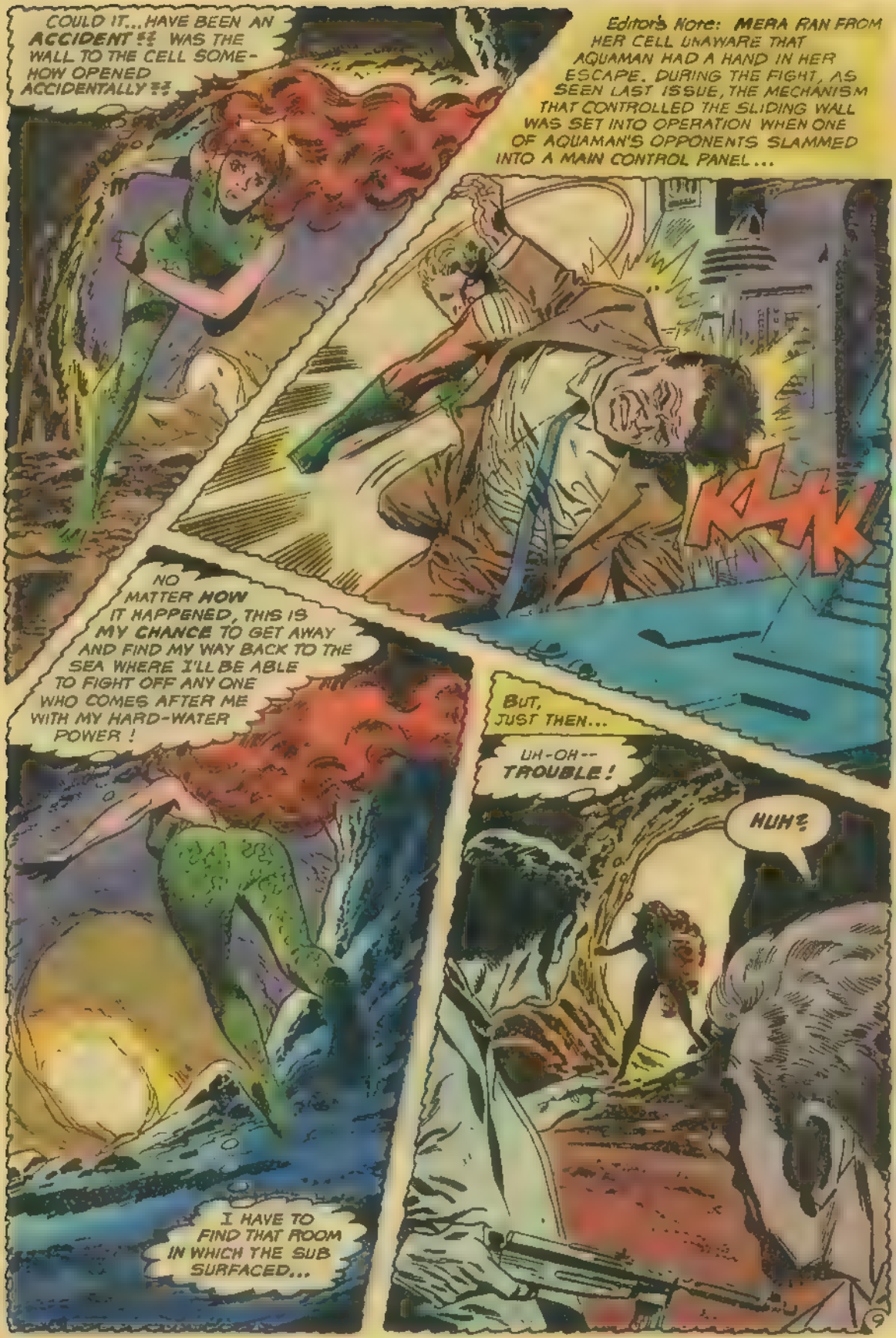

SOMETIME LATER...
OUR TIMING IS PERFECT! THE HOUR IS ALMOST UP! AND SHE'S TOO WEAK TO PUT UP ANY RESISTANCE!
HERE'S YOUR CELL, SISTER!
I SUGGEST YOU DON'T FOOL AROUND WITH YOUR HARD-WATER POWER! THIS CELL IS MONITORED! AND IF YOU TRY TO BREAK OUT, WE'LL PUMP ALL THE WATER OUT, AND LEAVE IT OUT!
...THEN THEY LEFT ME TO WAIT... HOURS AND HOURS - WONDERING WHY I WAS THERE... WONDERING WHAT THEY WERE PLANNING...
Editor's Note: WHAT WERE THEY PLANNING? WELL, THROUGH THE POWER OF OUR IMAGINATIONS, LET US GO BACK AND FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT THESE BADDIES HAD UP THEIR SLEEVES...
GOOD WORK! HER HARD-WATER POWER COUPLED WITH OUR ARTIFICIAL WHIRLPOOLS WILL MAKE IT A CINCH FOR US TO CAPTURE ANY SHIP WHOSE CARGO WE WANT! WHEN THAT BIG GOLD SHIPMENT NEARS THE HARBOR, WE GRAB IT!
I STILL SAY WE SHOULDA GRABBED AQUAMAN, TOO!
5


HE WOULDA BEEN TOO HARD TO HANDLE!
BESIDES WE DON'T NEED HIM! ALL WE GOTTA DO IS CONVINCE HIS CHICK THAT WE'VE GOT THE GREAT SEA KING HELD CAPTIVE! NOW, C'MON--LET'S GET IN THERE AND GIVE HER THE NEWS!
WHAT?! YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO HELP YOU COMMIT PIRACY!
YOU'LL HELP US... OR AQUAMAN DIES!
YES! WE'VE GOT HIM, TOO! IN A SPECIAL LEAD-LINED ROOM SO HE CAN'T COMMUNICATE WITH HIS FISH FRIENDS!
AND IT'D BE VERY EASY FOR US TO PUMP THE WATER OUTTA THERE... SO...
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU! IF YOU TOOK HIM CAPTIVE WHY DIDN'T I SEE HIM ON THE WAY HERE?!? WHY DON'T YOU LET ME SEE HIM NOW!
YOU DIDN'T SEE HIM, BECAUSE WE KEPT HIM IN ANOTHER PART OF THE SHIP! AND I'D HAVE TO BE A REAL DUMMY TO LET THE TWO OF YOU GET TOGETHER NOW!..
I STILL DON'T BELIEVE YOU!
HAVE IT YOUR OWN WAY! BUT, YOU'VE GOT FIFTEEN MINUTES TO DECIDE! IF YOU'RE SO SURE WE DON'T HAVE HIM, THEN YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT... DO YOU?
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING
6

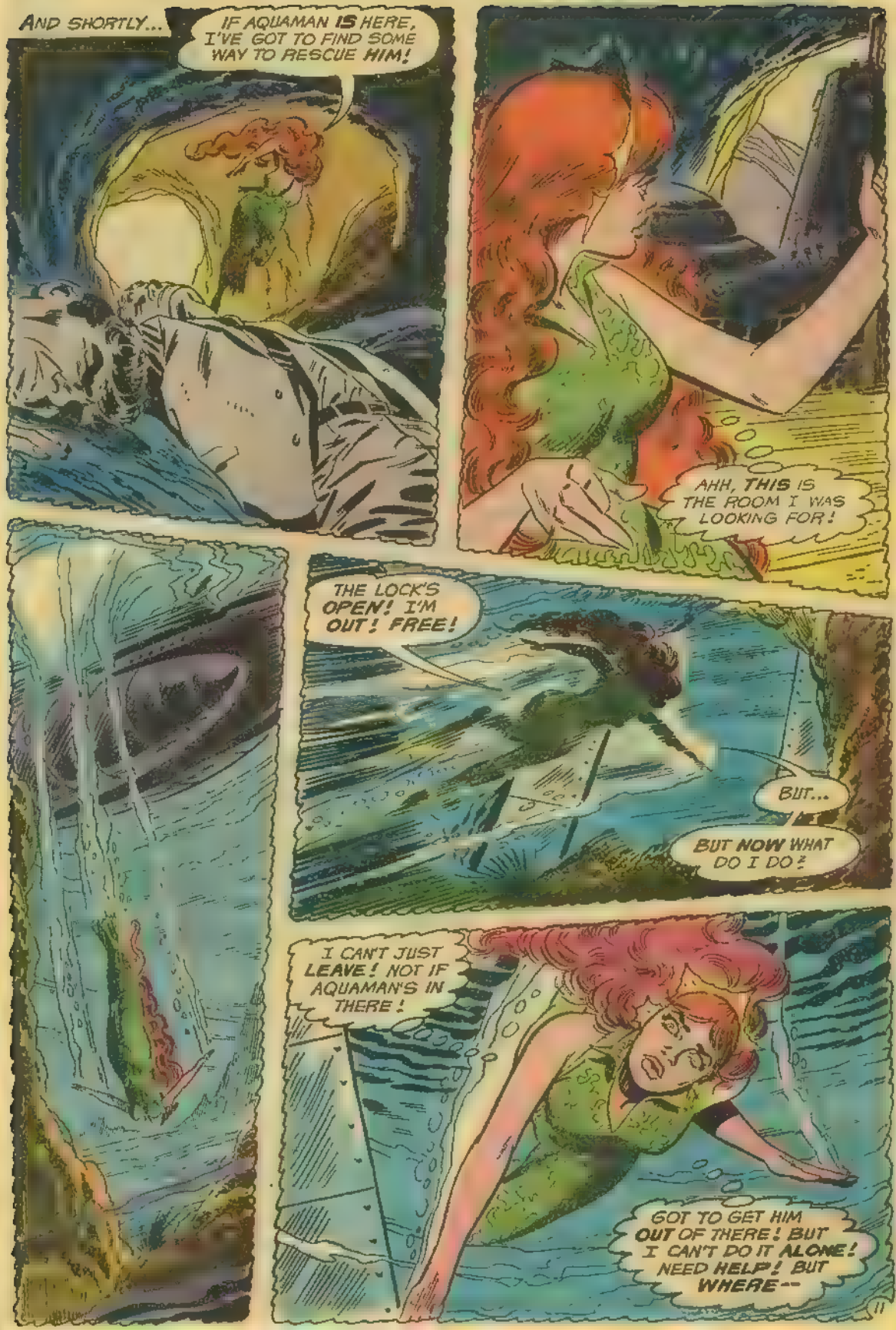
Build her, yourself! The mighty North Carolina was reportedly sunk six different times by the Japanese during WW II. But we are happy to tell you that Battleship 55 is alive and well in the Carolina port of Wilmington, where she is a permanent, floating war memorial. You'll be totally absorbed as you build this daring dreadnought who fought in 12 major Pacific battles from Guadalcanal to VJ Day. She has main turrets that move, guns that elevate, and a crane and catapults that swivel to retrieve and launch her two scout planes. Her superstructure is incredibly true to life. If you enjoy building great ships of the line, the North Carolina will be the proud flagship of your collection. She sells for $2.00, wherever toys or hobbies are sold. Send 35c for 1969 color catalog of new Revell kits. Revell, Inc. 4205 Glencoe Avenue Venice, California 90291

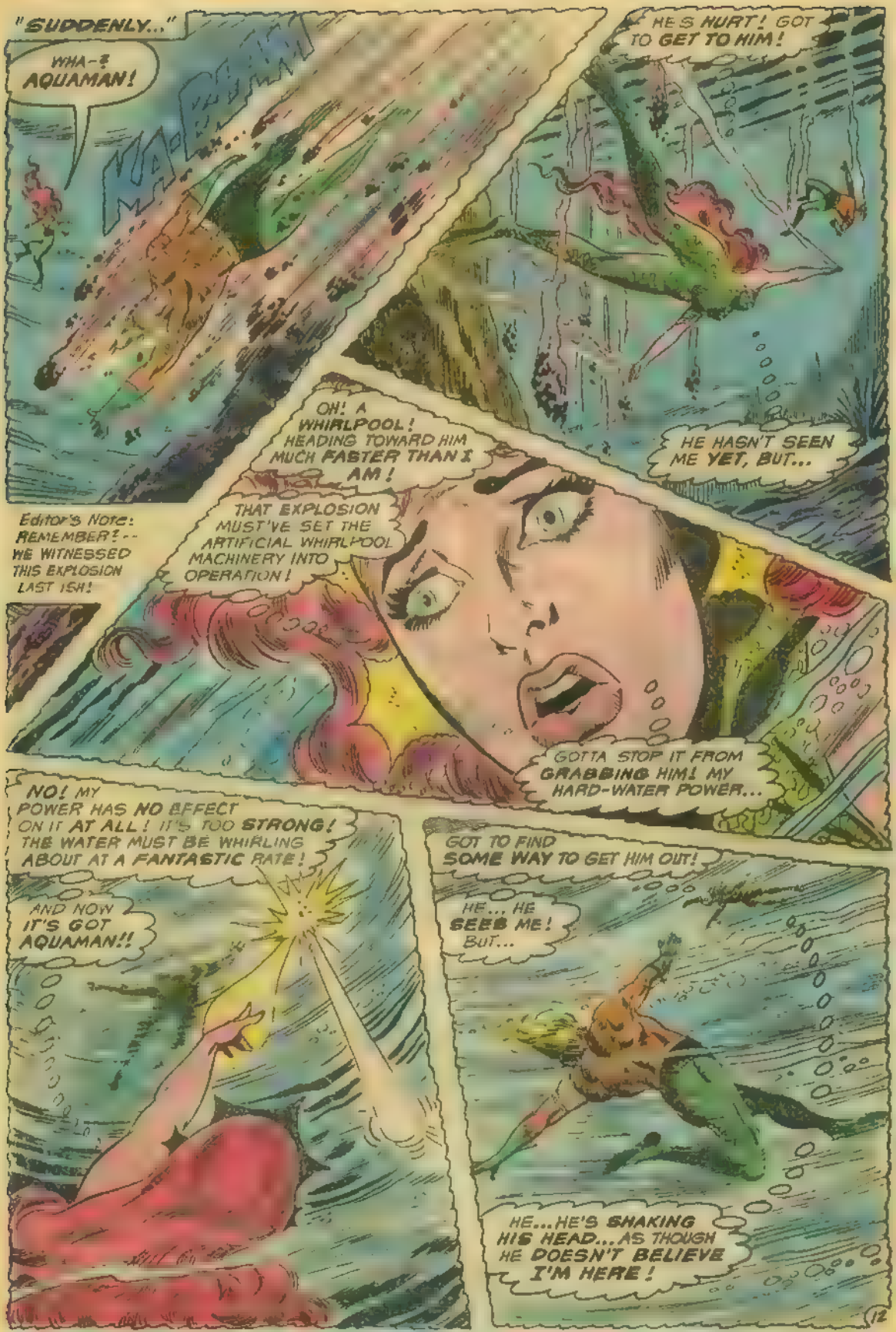
BUT JUST IN CASE YOU'RE NOT QUITE SURE, JUST REMEMBER -- IF YOU DON'T DECIDE TO HELP US WITHIN FIFTEEN MINUTES... AQUAMAN IS DEAD!
...THEN, IT WAS ALL UP TO ME! I WAS CERTAIN THEY DIDN'T HAVE AQUAMAN... AND YET SOMETHING IN THE BACK OF MY MIND KEPT SAYING, "WHAT IF THEY DO, WHAT IF THEY DO?" I WAS CONFUSED... ALONE... AND I HAD TO DECIDE!
"AND SO, I THOUGHT..."
"...AND THOUGHT..."
YOU HAVE LESS THAN A MINUTE LEFT!
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! I'LL DO IT! I'LL HELP YOU!

A WISE DECISION! NOW RELAX, CHICK! WE HAVE NO NEED FOR YOUR SERVICES UNTIL THE BOAT WE'RE AFTER REACHES THE HARBOR IN A FEW DAYS!
AND SO I WAITED... AND WAITED... GOING STIR-CRAZY IN THAT TINY CELL! I HAD NO IDEA HOW MANY DAYS PASSED...
"THEN, FINALLY..."
WHA-?
ZIPP
WHAT WAS THAT?! SOUNDED LIKE ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS BEING OPENED..
"I MADE AN INTERESTING DISCOVERY..."
THERE'S NO ONE HERE!
EITHER I'VE BEEN SET FREE OR THIS IS SOME SORT OF TRICK!..
"BUT, AS I TUMBLED OUT OF MY PRISON..."
HUH?!
THE WALL! ONE WHOLE WALL OF THIS CELL SLIDING DOWN... WATER SPILLING OUT...
THEY'RE READY FOR ME TO HELP THEM! AND THIS IS THE EASIEST WAY TO GET ME OUT OF MY CELL!!


COULD IT...HAVE BEEN AN ACCIDENT?! WAS THE WALL TO THE CELL SOMEHOW OPENED ACCIDENTALLY?!
Editor's Note: MERA RAN FROM HER CELL UNAWARE THAT AQUAMAN HAD A HAND IN HER ESCAPE. DURING THE FIGHT, AS SEEN LAST ISSUE, THE MECHANISM THAT CONTROLLED THE SLIDING WALL WAS SET INTO OPERATION WHEN ONE OF AQUAMAN'S OPPONENTS SLAMMED INTO A MAIN CONTROL PANEL...
KLAK
NO MATTER HOW IT HAPPENED, THIS IS MY CHANCE TO GET AWAY AND FIND MY WAY BACK TO THE SEA WHERE I'LL BE ABLE TO FIGHT OFF ANY ONE WHO COMES AFTER ME WITH MY HARD-WATER POWER!
I HAVE TO FIND THAT ROOM IN WHICH THE SUB SURFACED...
BUT, JUST THEN...
UH-OH-- TROUBLE!
HUH?!

HALT RIGHT WHERE Y--YOW!
NO ONE'S STOPPING ME!
NO ONE!
LUNCH
I MUST!!
I MUST GET OUT!
NOT NOW!
WAK


AND SHORTLY...
IF AQUAMAN IS HERE, I'VE GOT TO FIND SOME WAY TO RESCUE HIM!
AHH, THIS IS THE ROOM I WAS LOOKING FOR!
THE LOCK'S OPEN! I'M OUT! FREE!
BUT...
BUT NOW WHAT DO I DO?
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE! NOT IF AQUAMAN'S IN THERE!
GOT TO GET HIM OUT OF THERE! BUT I CAN'T DO IT ALONE! NEED HELP! BUT WHERE--


"SUDDENLY..."
WHA-? AQUAMAN!
KA-BLAM!
HE'S HURT! GOT TO GET TO HIM!
HE HASN'T SEEN ME YET, BUT...
OH! A WHIRLPOOL! HEADING TOWARD HIM MUCH FASTER THAN I AM!
THAT EXPLOSION MUST'VE SET THE ARTIFICIAL WHIRLPOOL MACHINERY INTO OPERATION!
Editor's Note: REMEMBER?-- WE WITNESSED THIS EXPLOSION LAST ISH!
GOTTA STOP IT FROM GRABBING HIM! MY HARD-WATER POWER...
NO! MY POWER HAS NO EFFECT ON IT AT ALL! IT'S TOO STRONG! THE WATER MUST BE WHIRLING ABOUT AT A FANTASTIC RATE!
AND NOW IT'S GOT AQUAMAN!!
GOT TO FIND SOME WAY TO GET HIM OUT!
HE... HE SEES ME! BUT...
HE...HE'S SHAKING HIS HEAD...AS THOUGH HE DOESN'T BELIEVE I'M HERE!
12

"BUT, BEFORE I COULD MAKE ANOTHER MOVE... THERE WAS A SUDDEN BLINDING FLASH, THE GIANT UNDERWATER FORTRESS I HAD JUST ESCAPED EXPLODED..."

UNNNGH

OOOOO...

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

TAKE A TIJUANA TAXI

It's more fun wherever you are!

New! Crazy like, wild and way-out custom. A Tom Daniel original—exclusively by Monogram

You'll love this "south-of-the-border" trap. It's an instant riot. A crazy, wild Tom Daniel creation—groovy too. Features a Pontiac custom engine with lots of chrome, wide drag slicks and custom mag wheels. Upholstered fender seats for 2nd class passengers, top, rear-facing seats for 3rd class and a really fancy interior for 1st class riders. Rear trunk and chicken coop. Get the Tijuana Taxi at your favorite store. Only $2.00

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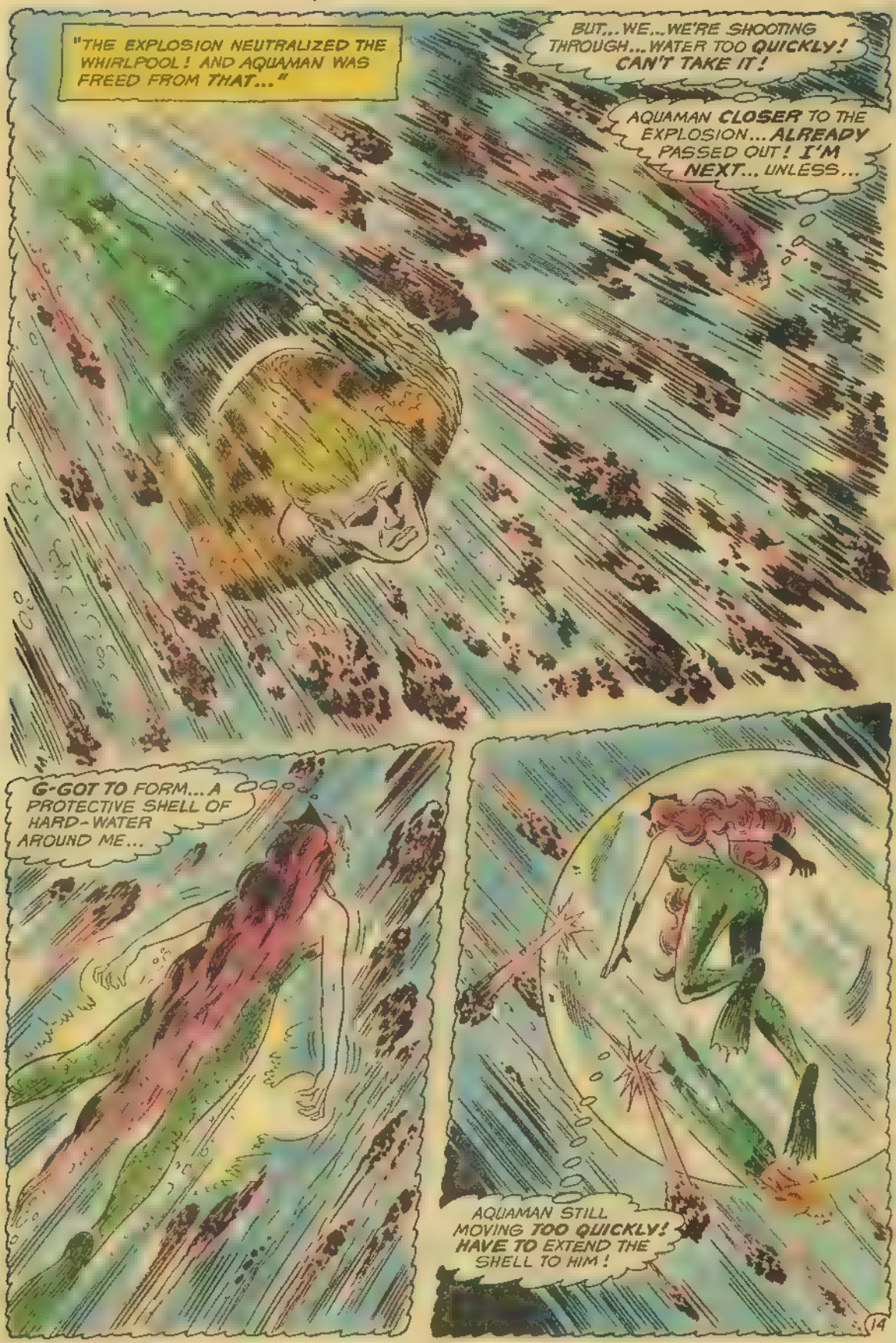
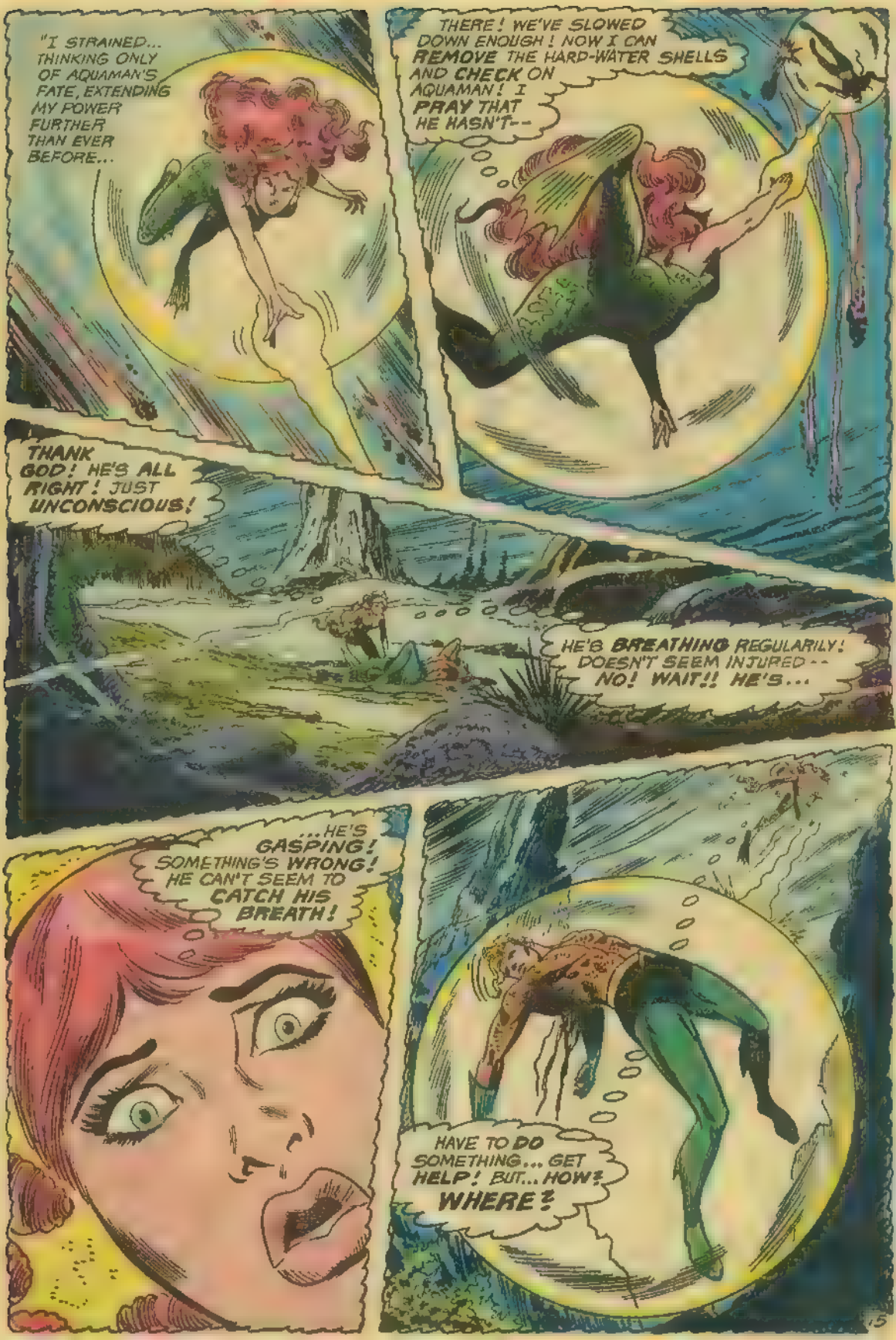

"THE EXPLOSION NEUTRALIZED THE WHIRLPOOL! AND AQUAMAN WAS FREED FROM THAT..."
BUT...WE...WE'RE SHOOTING THROUGH...WATER TOO QUICKLY! CAN'T TAKE IT!
AQUAMAN CLOSER TO THE EXPLOSION...ALREADY PASSED OUT! I'M NEXT... UNLESS...
G-GOT TO FORM...A PROTECTIVE SHELL OF HARD-WATER AROUND ME...
AQUAMAN STILL MOVING TOO QUICKLY! HAVE TO EXTEND THE SHELL TO HIM!
14


"I STRAINED... THINKING ONLY OF AQUAMAN'S FATE, EXTENDING MY POWER FURTHER THAN EVER BEFORE...
THERE! WE'VE SLOWED DOWN ENOUGH! NOW I CAN REMOVE THE HARD-WATER SHELLS AND CHECK ON AQUAMAN! I PRAY THAT HE HASN'T--
THANK GOD! HE'S ALL RIGHT! JUST UNCONSCIOUS!
HE'S BREATHING REGULARLY! DOESN'T SEEM INJURED-- NO! WAIT!! HE'S...
...HE'S GASPING! SOMETHING'S WRONG! HE CAN'T SEEM TO CATCH HIS BREATH!
HAVE TO DO SOMETHING... GET HELP! BUT... HOW? WHERE?

UP AHEAD-- A BEACH! THAT COULD BE THE ANSWER!
SOMETIMES, AIR HAS A REVIVING EFFECT ON ATLANTEANS, JUST AS PURE OXYGEN HAS ON ORDINARY HUMANS!

MERA'S THOUGHTS ARE DRIVEN FROM HER MIND AS THE AMBULANCE NOW PULLS INTO THE HOSPITAL PARKING LOT!
EMERGENCY
WE'VE FOLLOWED YOUR INSTRUCTIONS TO THE LETTER! A SPECIAL EXAMINING ROOM HAS BEEN SET-UP! AS WELL AS A SPECIAL WAITING ROOM FOR YOU!
LESS THAN FIFTEEN MINUTES HAVE PASSED SINCE THE AMBULANCE LEFT THE BEACH...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
MEAN-WHILE IN FAR-OFF ATLANTIS...
I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE, DOCTOR VULKO! HAVE YOU FINISHED YOUR TESTS? CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE STRANGE TREMORS WHICH HAVE SHAKEN ATLANTIS LATELY?
YES, I BELIEVE I CAN...
THEY ARE VOLCANIC IN ORIGIN! BUT FAR WORSE IS WHAT THEY MAY LEAD TO! THESE QUAKES MAY CONTINUE TO ROCK AND LIFT ATLANTIS, UNTIL THIS SURROUNDING LAND IS ABOVE THE OCEAN!
THE PROPHECY??
THEN, IT IS TRUE! THE PROPHECY MAY YET COME TO PASS!
YOU SURPRISE, ME, VULKO! HAVE YOU SPENT SO MUCH TIME WITH YOUR SCIENCE THAT YOU HAVE NEVER LISTENED TO THE MYTHS OF OUR PEOPLE?

IT IS SAID THAT AT THE END OF THIS CENTURY, ATLANTIS SHALL RISE TO THE SURFACE! AND WE SHALL TAKE OUR PLACE AMONG THE KINGDOMS OF THE SURFACE WORLD--THE PLACE THAT ONCE WAS OURS EONS AGO!
WHEN WE DO RISE, IT SHALL BE THE GREATEST DAY FOR ALL ATLANTIS! AND I--I WILL BE THE RULER OF THE GREAT DOMED KINGDOM!
HUH? BUT... WHAT OF AQUAMAN? SURELY, HE WILL RETURN SOON... AND RECLAIM HIS KINGDOM!
NO! HE WILL NOT RETURN!
...ER... THAT IS...I DOUBT THAT HE'LL RETURN! HE'S BEEN GONE TOO LONG! I...I HAVE A FEELING SOME DISASTER MAY HAVE BEFALLEN HIM!
AND IN ANOTHER SECTOR OF ATLANTIS, SIMILAR THOUGHTS PASS THROUGH ANOTHER'S MIND...
IF ONLY AQUAMAN WERE HERE! IF ONLY THERE WERE SOMEONE HERE WHO COULD PUT AN END TO NARKRAN'S RULE!
WITH EACH DAY, HIS MADNESS GROWS! HE BECOMES MORE AND MORE A TYRANT! SOMETHING MUST BE DONE!
BUT... WHAT?
ENOUGH, DOCTOR VULKO--YOU HAVE ANSWERED MY QUESTION! YOU NEED STAY NO LONGER!
I WISH TO BE ALONE! THERE IS MUCH I MUST THINK ABOUT!
AS YOU WISH!
18

HEY-! WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE!
SOMETHING'S UP! THOSE TWO ARE BEHAVING TOO SNEAKY FOR THEM TO BE ON THE UP AND UP!
I'LL FOLLOW HIM AND GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS! I'VE BEEN KEEPING MY EYES OPEN LATELY AND I'VE NOTICED AN AWFUL LOT OF PUSSY-FOOTING AROUND GOING ON! HOPE I'M WRONG...
CAN'T JUST GO BARGING IN RIGHT AFTER HIM! I'LL TRY TO SNEAK IN...
SUDDENLY...
COME ON RIGHT IN, YOU LITTLE SPY!!
WHOOOP!
SOME-THING TELLS ME I SHOULDN'T BE DOING THIS, BUT...
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING
19

KOMPHE
STOP THE FIGHTING! THIS IS SENSELESS!
WA
UNNGH!
BUT, MUPO-- SHE DOESN'T BELONG HERE! SHE FOLLOWED ME! IT--
DON'T YOU REALIZE WHO THIS IS! THIS IS AQUAGIRL, DEVOTED FOLLOWER OF THE TRUE KING OF ATLANTIS! SHE IS NO ENEMY! IF ANYTHING, SHE IS ON OUR SIDE!
OUR NUMBER HAVE GROWN AND GROWN! WE ARE NOW STRONG ENOUGH TO OVERTHROW THE TYRANT, NARKRAN! THIS IS OUR PURPOSE!
YOUR SIDE!?
YES.. I AM THE LEADER OF THE REVOLUTIONARIES! WE HAVE GROUPED TOGETHER BECAUSE WE HAVE LIKE MINDS... LIKE PURPOSE...
THEN, I WAS RIGHT... SOMETHING HAS BEEN GOING ON!

WH-WHEN IS THIS GOING TO TAKE PLACE?

NO! DON'T TELL HER! I STILL SAY WE SHOULDN'T TRUST HER!

PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT! WE SHOULD ACT WITH CAUTION!

BUT THERE'S ONE THING I WILL SAY-- IT WILL BE SOON-- VERY SOON!!

BUT...YOU CAN'T! YOU MUSTN'T! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS! TOO MANY LIVES WILL BE LOST!

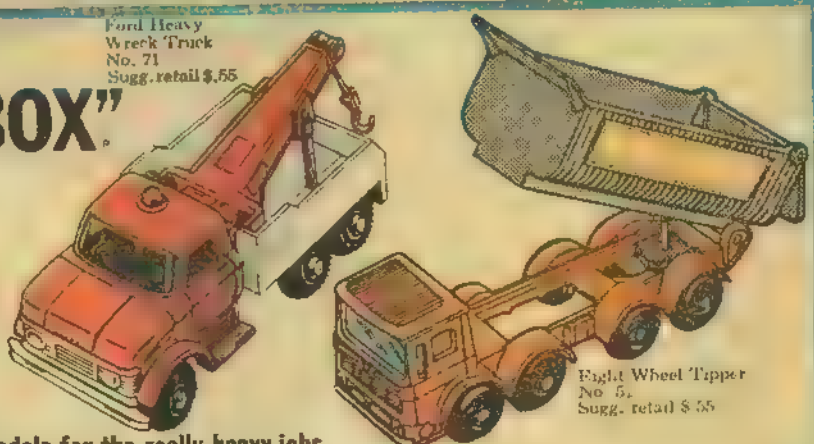
AT LEAST, WAIT A FEW WEEKS! AQUAMAN MAY BE RETURNING HOME AT THIS VERY MOMENT!

NO! WE'VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH! WE MUST STRIKE!

AND IF LIVES ARE LOST, THAT'S THE PRICE THAT HAS TO BE PAID IF A TYRANT IS TO BE OVERTHROWN!

CONTINUED ON 21st PAGE FOLLOWING

NEW "MATCHBOX" MODELS OF THE MONTH.



Ford Heavy Wreck Truck No. 71 Sugg. retail $.55

Eight Wheel Tipper No. 5 Sugg. retail $.55

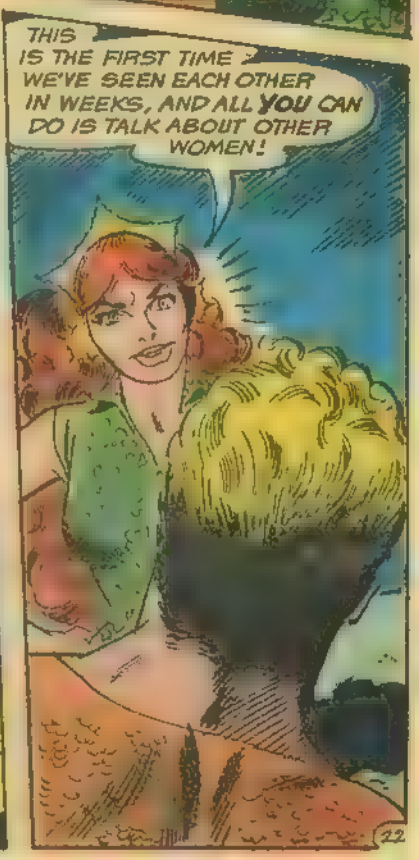
These are "MATCHBOX" models for the really heavy jobs.

On your left, the Ford Wrecker with swinging cable and hook, plus a dome light. On your right, the Eight-Wheel Tipper with ergomatic cab, a tipper that tips, a tailgate that opens. Both have tinted windshields (look cooler than real) even to authentic name plates). Their die cast construction makes them last. Want to see more models? Just write for a "MATCHBOX" catalogue. It's free.

EPILOGUE • THE SUN THAT HOURS • BEFORE HAD LENT PROMISE TO THE NEW DAWNING DAY, NOW SINKS GENTLY IN THE WEST AND AS DUSK SETTLES UPON THE CITY A MAN AND A WOMAN IN STRANGE GARB LEAVE A HOSPITAL AND WALK AWAY HAND IN HAND...

STRANGE--! I NEVER SUSPECTED YOUR CAPTORS WERE ATLANTEANS! FROM THE WAY THEY HIT ME, I FELT THEY MUST HAVE HAD SOME SORT OF SUPER-STRENGTH!
AN HOSPITAL
THE SWIRLING WATER MUST HAVE WEAKENED ME FAR MORE THAN I THOUGHT!
HOSPITAL ZONE
AS FOR THE MAARZON RING WHICH ONE OF THEM WORE...

...I SUPPOSE THE EXPLANATION FOR THAT IS QUITE SIMPLE! PROBABLY, AFTER BEING EXILED FROM ATLANTIS, ONE OF THE MEN VISITED THE COLONY OF THE MAARZONS AND PICKED UP THE RING THERE!
I WASTED A LOT OF TIME TRYING TO TRACE THAT RING! BUT THEN, IT WAS THE ONLY CLUE I HAD TO WORK ON!



OKAY, OKAY--I THINK WE'VE SPENT JUST ABOUT ENOUGH TIME ON SMALL TALK! C'MON!
WE HAVE TO GET BACK TO ATLANTIS AND SEE TO IT THAT NARKRAN RECEIVES THE JUSTICE HE SO RICHLY DESERVES!
OF COURSE, EVERYTHING HAS IT'S BRIGHTER SIDE! IT CERTAINLY IS GOING TO BE GREAT TO SEE TULA, AQUALAD AND AQUABABY AGAIN!
BUT AT THE MOMENT, AQUALAD IS NOT BACK HOME! HE IS, JUST IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN (WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN--HONEST!), NOW FAR FROM ATLANTIS, ENGAGED IN COMBAT WITH THE DREAD MONSTER CALLED THE BUGALA...
NEXT ISSUE:
ATLANTEAN SHOW-DOWN!

The MARVEL FAMILY

CAPT. MARVEL! CAPT. MARVEL JR! MARY MARVEL! EACH OF THESE NAMES ALONE MAKES A GREAT STORY! BUT NOW, ALL THREE MARVELS COMBINE IN THE GREATEST ADVENTURE OF ALL, AS THE MIGHTY MARVEL FAMILY WAGES GRIM BATTLE AGAINST THE MOST FRIGHTFUL MENACE OF THE AGES--**BLACK ADAM!**

The MIGHTY MARVELS JOIN FORCES!

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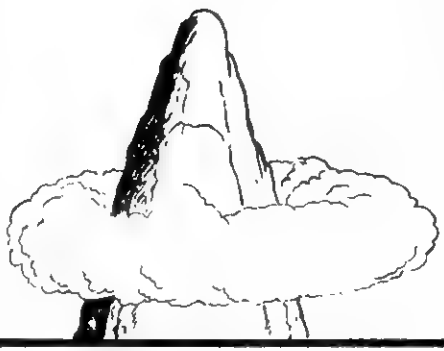
N-722

SOMEWHERE FAR OUT BEYOND THE REALM OF MANKIND, THERE STANDS THE **ROCK OF ETERNITY!**

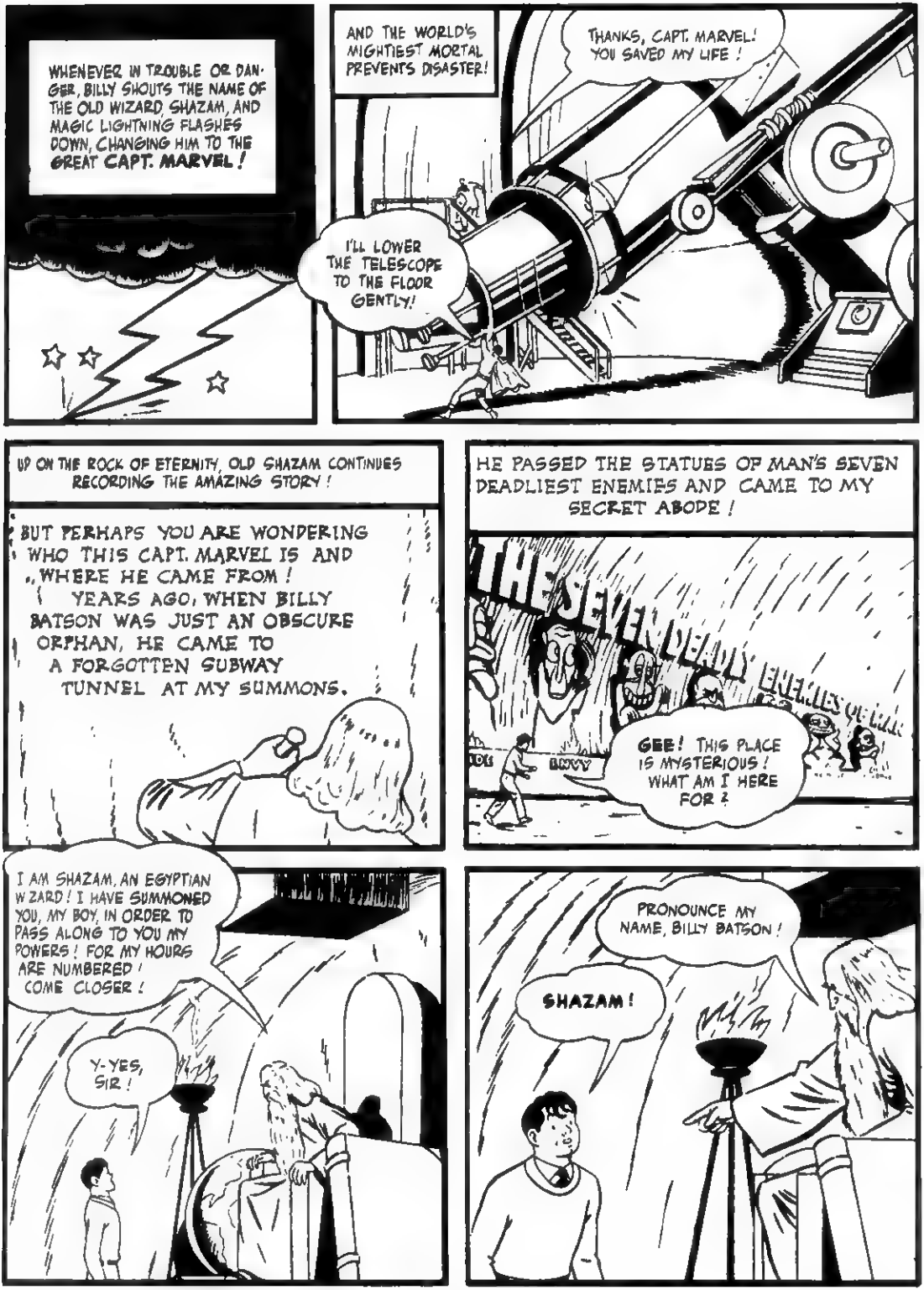


AND OLD SHAZAM, THE WISE EGYPTIAN **WIZARD** WHO ONCE DWELT ON EARTH, NOW CHISELS HERE AN ETERNAL RECORD ON THE EVERLASTING STONE!

RECORD OF THE MIGHTY MARVEL FAMILY!

LIVING ON EARTH, FIGHTING EVIL, ARE CAPTAIN MARVEL, CAPTAIN MARVEL JR., MARY MARVEL

I, SHAZAM, CREATED THEM TO FIGHT EVIL ON EARTH! BUT ALSO IT MUST BE RECORDED THAT BEFORE THEM, I CREATED BLACK ADAM, MUCH TO MY SORROW! I CALLED HIM MIGHTY ADAM FIRST, BUT WHEN HE TURNED EVIL I RENAMED HIM BLACK ADAM!
FOR HIS CRIMES I BANISHED BLACK ADAM TO THE FARTHEST STAR! AND YET IT WAS NOT FAR ENOUGH, FOR HE WAS TO RETURN AND CHALLENGE THE MIGHT OF THE MARVEL FAMILY! THE STORY OF THIS BATTLE OPENED IN THE OFFICE OF STERLING MORRIS, OWNER OF RADIO STATION WHIZ!
BILLY BATSON, STAR BOY NEWSCASTER FOR STATION WHIZ, RECEIVED AN ASSIGNMENT FROM HIS BOSS!
BILLY, THE ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY REPORTS AN UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT APPROACHING EARTH FROM FAR OUT IN SPACE! GO AND SEE WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!
RIGHT AWAY, MR. MORRIS!
WHAT IS IT THAT'S COMING, SIR? A NEW COMET? A METEOR?
WE CAN'T YET MAKE IT OUT. IT'S VERY SMALL, BUT IT'S COMING AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT! AND IT WILL REACH EARTH SOON!
WILL IT CAUSE ANY DAMAGE?
I DON'T KNOW! I WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL UNTIL I SEE THE OBJECT MORE CLEARLY! I'M GOING TO USE THIS BIG TELESCOPE, EVEN THOUGH IT NEEDS REPAIRS!
BUT SUDDENLY, THE GIANT INSTRUMENT COLLAPSES!
KRAK!
OHH! I SHOULDN'T HAVE TRIED TO USE IT!
WE'LL BOTH BE CRUSHED... SHAZAM!


WHENEVER IN TROUBLE OR DANGER, BILLY SHOUTS THE NAME OF THE OLD WIZARD, SHAZAM, AND MAGIC LIGHTNING FLASHES DOWN, CHANGING HIM TO THE GREAT CAPT. MARVEL!
AND THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL PREVENTS DISASTER!
THANKS, CAPT. MARVEL! YOU SAVED MY LIFE!
I'LL LOWER THE TELESCOPE TO THE FLOOR GENTLY!
UP ON THE ROCK OF ETERNITY, OLD SHAZAM CONTINUES RECORDING THE AMAZING STORY!
BUT PERHAPS YOU ARE WONDERING WHO THIS CAPT. MARVEL IS AND WHERE HE CAME FROM! YEARS AGO, WHEN BILLY BATSON WAS JUST AN OBSCURE ORPHAN, HE CAME TO A FORGOTTEN SUBWAY TUNNEL AT MY SUMMONS.
HE PASSED THE STATUES OF MAN'S SEVEN DEADLIEST ENEMIES AND CAME TO MY SECRET ABODE!
THE SEVEN DEADLY ENEMIES OF MAN
GEE! THIS PLACE IS MYSTERIOUS! WHAT AM I HERE FOR?
I AM SHAZAM, AN EGYPTIAN WIZARD! I HAVE SUMMONED YOU, MY BOY, IN ORDER TO PASS ALONG TO YOU MY POWERS! FOR MY HOURS ARE NUMBERED! COME CLOSER!
Y-YES, SIR!
PRONOUNCE MY NAME, BILLY BATSON!
SHAZAM!

FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE MAGIC LIGHTNING THUNDERED DOWN, CHANGING THE ORPHAN BOY INTO A NEW FORM!
BOOM!
CAPT. MARVEL, THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL, WAS BORN!
I NAME YOU... CAPTAIN MARVEL!
BUT EVEN AS THE ANCIENT WIZARD SPOKE, A BLOCK OF STONE, SUSPENDED BY A MERE THREAD ABOVE HIS HEAD, FELL, AND...
HE'S DEAD! CRUSHED! NOW I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY I WAS CREATED!
CRASH!
BUT THEN, THE SPIRIT OF THE DEAD SHAZAM AROSE FROM THE DEBRIS!
HARKEN, CAPT. MARVEL! YOU ARE ENDOWED WITH ALL THE POWERS AND WISDOM OF THESE SIX GREAT GODS! YOU WILL FIGHT EVIL ON EARTH! THAT IS YOUR MISSION!
SOLOMON WISDOM
HERCULES STRENGTH
ATLAS STAMINA
ZEUS POWER
ACHILLES COURAGE
MERCURY SPEED
NOW I MUST GO! IF EVER YOU NEED ME, LIGHT THAT INCENSE-BURNER, AND I WILL RETURN! GOODBYE, CAPT. MARVEL!
AND THAT WAS HOW CAPT. MARVEL WAS CREATED!
BUT TO CONTINUE THE RECORD OF BLACK ADAM, BILLY BATSON LEFT THE OBSERVATORY AFTER CAPT. MARVEL HAD SAVED THE ASTRONOMER...
...AND MADE HIS WAY TO THE NEWSSTAND OF FREDDY FREEMAN, HIS FRIEND!
HI, BILLY! WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS MYSTERIOUS OBJECT IS?
I DON'T KNOW, FREDDY! I'VE JUST BEEN TO THE OBSERVATORY AND THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS THEMSELVES!

BUT THEY SAY IT'S VERY SMALL, SO IT MUST NOT BE ANYTHING DANGEROUS!
AT THAT MOMENT...
HEY, LOOK, MIRANDA! WHAT'S THAT COMIN' RIGHT DOWN OVER THE CITY?
WATCH YOUR DRIVING, CLEM! LOOK OUT..YOU'RE GOING TO HIT THAT BOY!
THE BOY IS BILLY BATSON, AND FREDDY SEES THE IMPENDING TRAGEDY.
BILLY DOESN'T SEE THAT CAR! I'D BETTER SAY... CAPTAIN MARVEL!
AT THOSE TWO WORDS, MAGIC LIGHTNING AGAIN SIZZLES DOWN, CHANGING FREDDY FREEMAN TO... CAPTAIN MARVEL JR.!
BAM!
THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST BOY SAVES BILLY!
GULP! THANKS, CAPT. MARVEL JR.! I WAS SO BUSY LOOKING UP THAT I DIDN'T WATCH THE TRAFFIC!
THIS IS A NEW ONE, BILLY... I'M SAVING YOU!
BAM!
SQUEEE
I MUST NOW RECORD WHO CAPT. MARVEL JR. IS, AND HOW HE CAME INTO EXISTENCE!
FREDDY FREEMAN, A POOR NEWSBOY, WAS ONE DAY NEARLY KILLED BY AN INJURY THAT WAS TO LEAVE HIM FOREVER A CRIPPLE!
RESCUED BY CAPT. MARVEL, THE DYING BOY WAS BROUGHT DOWN TO MY UNDERGROUND ABODE BY BILLY BATSON!
THIS POOR BOY IS DYING! BUT MAYBE OLD SHAZAM WILL TAKE PITY ON HIM AND SAVE HIM! I'LL SUMMON THE SPIRIT OF SHAZAM BY LIGHTING THE INCENSE-BURNER!

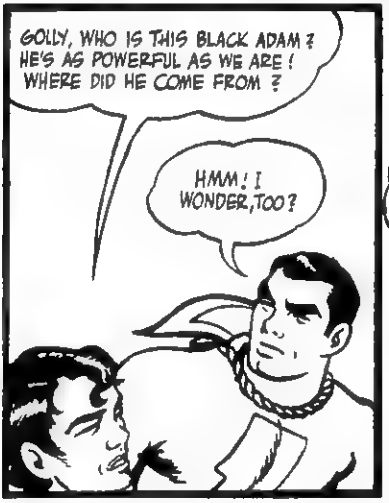
YES, MY SON? WHY DO YOU SUMMON ME?
THIS BOY, FREDDY FREEMAN, IS DYING! CAN YOU SAVE HIM, SIR?
THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY! YOU, AS CAPT. MARVEL, MUST PASS ALONG TO HIM SOME OF THE POWERS I GAVE YOU. SPEAK MY NAME, BILLY!
SHAZAM!
I VANISHED AS THE MAGIC LIGHTNING BROUGHT THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL, AND WHEN THE INJURED BOY REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS...
WHY, IT... IT'S CAPT. MARVEL!
AS THE WONDERING BOY MURMURED HIS HERO'S NAME, THERE WAS A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHTNING THAT CHANGED HIM INTO CAPT. MARVEL JR.!
BOOM!
HENCEFORTH, YOU, TOO, WILL FIGHT THE EVIL THAT EXISTS ON EARTH!
I'M STRONG, LIKE YOU!
AND THAT WAS HOW CAPT. MARVEL JR., THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST BOY, CAME INTO BEING! BUT NOW, AFTER SAVING BILLY BATSON FROM THE CAR, CAPT. MARVEL JR. IS FACED BY A TERRIFYING MENACE!
LOOK! THAT STRANGE OBJECT HAS ARRIVED, OVER THIS CITY! HOLY MOLEY! IT HAS A... A HUMAN FORM!
FLASHING DOWN FROM SPACE AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT COMES THE SINISTER BEING KNOWN AS... BLACK ADAM!
AT LAST I'VE REACHED EARTH, AFTER FLYING FOR 5000 YEARS FROM THE FARTHEST STAR, WHERE I WAS BANISHED BY OLD SHAZAM!

THE WORLD IS CERTAINLY DIFFERENT TODAY FROM WHAT IT WAS WHEN LAST I KNEW IT! BUT I WILL CONQUER AND RULE IT!
HONK HONK
HEY, YOU! GET OFF THE STREET! YOU'RE BLOCKING TRAFFIC!
FOOL! YOU ARE TALKING TO MIGHTY ADAM, BETTER KNOWN AS BLACK ADAM! I TAKE ORDERS FROM NO ONE!
WHAM!
HOLY SMOKE! THE BULLETS BOUNCE FROM HIM, JUST LIKE FROM CAPT. MARVEL!
BANG POW BANG
IDIOT! FOR THAT, I'LL BREAK YOU IN HALF LIKE A TWIG!
HELP!
THE CRY IS HEEDED BY NEARBY CAPTAIN MARVEL JR.!
LET HIM ALONE!
WHAT? A FLYING BOY? THIS IS AMAZING!
POW!
HERE'S SOMETHING MORE AMAZING... RIGHT IN YOUR FACE!

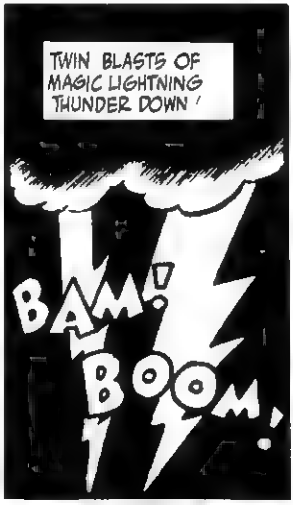
BUT NOW IT IS CAPT. MARVEL JR.'S TURN TO BE AMAZED, FOR HIS BLOW HAS HAD NO EFFECT!
SILLY BOY! YOU CAN'T HURT BLACK ADAM! BUT WATCH WHAT I DO TO YOU NOW!
WELL? WHAT?
CURSES!
SHAM
BILLY BATSON OBSERVES THE FIGHT, AND...
HOLY MOLEY! WHO IS THIS BLACK ADAM? HE STANDS UP TO JUNIOR'S BLOWS! I GUESS I'LL JOIN THE FIGHT!...SHAZAM!
BOOM
WHAT? ANOTHER ONE?
LET ME TAKE A WHACK AT HIM, CAPT. MARVEL JR.!
THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL DELIVERS THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST BLOW!
IF HE SURVIVES THIS PUNCH, HE'S REALLY GOOD!
WHAM!
HOLY MOLEY! HE DID SURVIVE!
BAH! I'M YOUR EQUAL! YOU CAN'T WHIP ME!
BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I CAN'T WHIP THEM! THIS IS VERY QUEER! I USED TO BE THE MOST POWERFUL MAN ON EARTH, IN THE OLD DAYS! NOW THESE TWO CAN SLUG IT OUT WITH ME! I HAVE TO THINK THIS ALL OVER! I'LL LOSE MYSELF IN A CROWD, AND ESCAPE!

AFTER HIM! HE'S TRYING TO GIVE US THE SLIP!

DOGGONE! HE SUCCEEDED! WE CAN'T FIND HIM IN THIS CROWD!

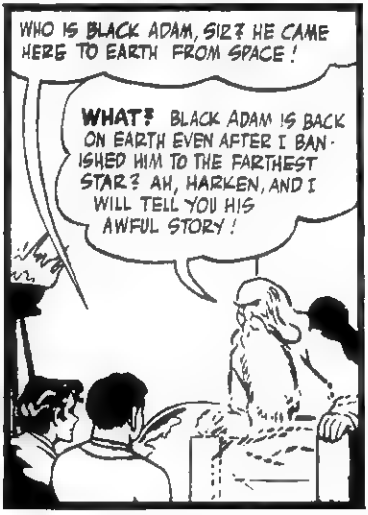

GOLLY, WHO IS THIS BLACK ADAM? HE'S AS POWERFUL AS WE ARE! WHERE DID HE COME FROM?
HMM! I WONDER, TOO?

I THINK THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER! WE MUST FIND OUT WHO HE IS FROM OLD... SHAZAM!
RIGHT! WE'LL GO DOWN INTO THE OLD SUBWAY TUNNEL... CAPT. MARVEL!


TWIN BLASTS OF MAGIC LIGHTNING THUNDER DOWN!
BAM!
BOOM!

AND BILLY BATSON AND FREDDY FREEMAN MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE SECRET TUNNEL, NOT KNOWING THAT EVIL BLACK ADAM HAS BEEN SPYING ON THEM.
HAH, I SAW THEM CHANGE! SO THEY, TOO, HAVE THE POWERS OF OLD SHAZAM, LIKE I HAVE! AND NOW THEY'LL LEAD ME RIGHT TO SHAZAM, AGAINST WHOM I WANT REVENGE!

I'LL LIGHT THE BURNER AND SUMMON THE SPIRIT OF SHAZAM!
I AM HERE! WHAT IS THE TROUBLE, MY CHILDREN?


WHO IS BLACK ADAM, SIR? HE CAME HERE TO EARTH FROM SPACE!
WHAT? BLACK ADAM IS BACK ON EARTH EVEN AFTER I BANISHED HIM TO THE FARTHEST STAR? AH, HARKEN, AND I WILL TELL YOU HIS AWFUL STORY!

IT WAS THEN I TOLD BILLY BATSON AND FREDDY FREEMAN ABOUT BLACK ADAM! BACK IN ANCIENT EGYPT, 5000 YEARS BEFORE, I HAD DECIDED TO PASS ON MY POWERS TO A WORTHY MAN!
I PICKED TETH-ADAM, WHOSE SOUL I THOUGHT WAS GOOD AND PURE!
YES, O GREAT ONE?
TETH-ADAM! THE WORLD NEEDS A POWERFUL CHAMPION TO COMBAT THE EVIL WHICH INFESTS IT!
PRONOUNCE MY NAME!
SHAZAM!
BOOM!
THE MAGIC LIGHTNING HAS CHANGED ME!
YES! HENCEFORTH, YOU ARE MIGHTY ADAM! GO AND FIGHT EVIL IN THE WORLD!
BUT SOON AFTER DISCOVERING HIS GREAT NEW POWERS, MIGHTY ADAM PLOTTED EVILLY!
I AM THE MOST POWERFUL MAN ON EARTH! WHY SHOULDN'T I BE RULER OF ALL MANKIND? I WILL INVADE THE PALACE! OUT OF MY WAY, WORMS!
GET OFF THAT THRONE, PHAROAH! I WANT IT!
GUARDS! PROTECT ME!
CRACK!

FOR RESISTING ME, YOU GET A BROKEN NECK !
AGHHHH !
SNAP!
NOW I AM RULER OF EGYPT AND ALL ITS DOMINIONS ! I WILL SEND ARMIES TO SWEEP OUT AND CONQUER ALL THE WORLD !
BUT OLD SHAZAM APPEARS ANGRILY !
YOU HAVE TURNED EVIL, MIGHTY ADAM ! I CHANGE YOUR NAME TO BLACK ADAM ! YOU MUST BE PUNISHED !
HOW CAN YOU PUNISH ME ? NOTHING CAN HARM OR DESTROY ME !
NO, BUT I CAN BANISH YOU FROM THE EARTH ! GO, BLACK ADAM ... TO THE FARTHEST STAR IN THIS UNIVERSE !
GASP!
I AM BEING HURLED THROUGH SPACE, TO THE FARTHEST STAR ! BUT I WILL RETURN SOME DAY, IF IT TAKES ALL ETERNITY ! I WILL RETURN FOR REVENGE !
AND SO BLACK ADAM WAS GONE FROM EARTH ! I DECIDED IT WAS UNWISE TO BESTOW MY POWERS ON ANY MORTAL ! BUT 5000 YEARS LATER, A NEW IDEA CAME TO ME... WHY NOT BESTOW MY POWERS ON A BOY, WHO WOULD BE PURE AND UNSULLIED BY THE WORLD ? THAT WAS WHEN I CREATED CAPT. MARVEL, BILLY!
I SEE ! BUT HOW DID BLACK ADAM GET BACK TO EARTH, SIR ?
LITTLE DID I THINK HE COULD DO IT ! HE MUST HAVE FLOWN THROUGH SPACE AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT FOR 5000 YEARS ! HE IS A TERRIBLE MENACE, AND YOU MUST TRACK HIM DOWN !
WE WILL, SIR. GOOD-BYE, AND THANKS !

BUT THEN, BLACK ADAM STRIKES FROM HIDING!
SO YOU'LL TRACK ME DOWN, EH?
THERE! NOW TO KILL YOU TWO, WHICH WILL BE MY REVENGE AGAINST THE OLD WIZARD!
BUT MEANWHILE, BILLY'S SISTER, MARY BATSON, RECEIVES A PHONE CALL FROM STATION WHIZ!
MARY? THIS IS STERLING MORRIS! DO YOU KNOW WHERE BILLY IS? HE MISSED HIS LAST BROADCAST!
NO, MR. MORRIS! I HAVEN'T SEEN BILLY ALL DAY!
GOLLY, I'M WORRIED, UNCLE DUDLEY! WHAT HAPPENED TO BILLY?
TUT, TUT, CHILD! MAYBE HE JUST WENT TO VISIT FREDDY FREEMAN! COME, WE'LL GO TO FREDDY'S NEWSSTAND.
FREDDY IS GONE, TOO! OH, UNCLE, SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED! I JUST KNOW IT!
HMM! THIS IS SERIOUS!
THIS IS JUST A HUNCH, BUT LET'S GO TO OLD SHAZAM! HE ALWAYS SAID TO SEE HIM IN CASE OF DEEP TROUBLE!
THAT'S RIGHT, UNCLE! LET'S HURRY!
SOON..
GOOD HEAVENS! LOOK! BILLY AND FREDDY IN TROUBLE!
IT IS TIME TO SAY OUR WORDS, MARY... SHAZAM!
SHAZAM!
THIS TIME MAGIC LIGHTNING STRIKES BUT ONCE, YET TWO MEMBERS OF THE MARVEL FAMILY APPEAR!
BOOM

MARY MARVEL AND UNCLE MARVEL!

BUT BEFORE WE GO ON, LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE ORIGIN OF MARY MARVEL!

ONE DAY, BILLY BATSON RECEIVED THE THRILLING NEWS FROM A DYING NURSE THAT HE HAD A LONG-LOST SISTER, MARY BATSON!

MARY WAS LATER CAPTURED AND HELD FOR RANSOM BY CROOKS. BILLY CAME TO HER RESCUE, BUT WAS NABBED ALSO BY THE DESPERADOES!

SHAZ-- UGGS!

BILLY! SHOUT YOUR MAGIC WORD!

BILLY CAN'T! HE'S HELPLESS AND CAN'T CHANGE TO CAPT. MARVEL! BUT WAIT... MAYBE I CAN CHANGE, TOO! AFTER ALL, I'M BILLY'S SISTER, SO MAYBE THE MAGIC POWER WILL WORK FOR ME, TOO! I'LL TRY IT...

SHAZAM!

MARY BATSON SAID THE MAGIC WORD FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND INSTANTLY THERE WAS A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHTNING, AND MARY MARVEL APPEARED!

BOOM

IT HAPPENED! I CHANGED! I FEEL STRONG AND POWERFUL! NOW I CAN TACKLE THOSE THUGS!

I GRANTED MARY MARVEL THE SHAZAM POWERS, LIKE HER BROTHER! AS FOR UNCLE MARVEL -- WELL, NOW, THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN'T QUITE EXPLAIN MYSELF! HE'S NOT A TRUE MARVEL AT ALL! HE'S A FRAUD!

HE SHOUTS MY NAME AND ALWAYS PRETENDS TO CHANGE BY MAGIC, TOO, BUT HE REALLY JUST WHISKS AWAY OUTER CLOTHING, REVEALING A RED SUIT THAT HE MADE!

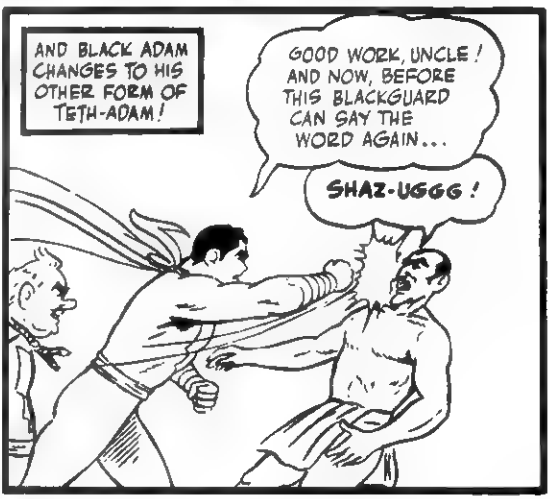
HE THINKS WE NEVER SEE HIM DO THAT! BUT HE'S SUCH A LOVABLE OLD FRAUD THAT WE'VE ALL ACCEPTED HIM INTO THE MARVEL FAMILY!

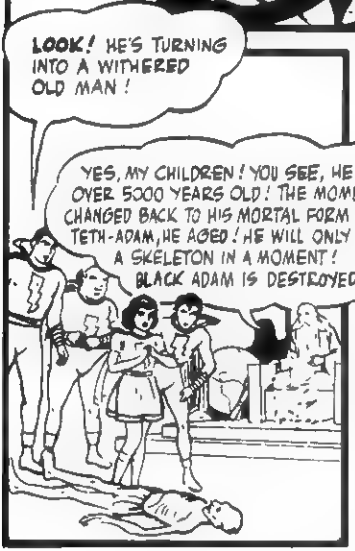
BUT NOW, BACK TO BLACK ADAM! MARY MARVEL RUSHED FORWARD TO BATTLE HIM, BUT....
TUT, TUT, MY CHILD. LET UNCLE MARVEL HANDLE THIS RUFFIAN!
BACK, YOU OVERSTUFFED OLD IMBECILE!
OOF!
BAM
ER... I'VE SOFTENED HIM UP, MARY! NOW YOU CAN FINISH HIM OFF!
SO THERE'S STILL ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE MARVEL FAMILY, EH? WELL, YOU WON'T GET ANY FURTHER WITH ME THAN THE OTHERS DID, MY DEAR!
WAM
DEAR ME! MARY IS GETTING NOWHERE! PERHAPS CAPT. MARVEL AND CAPT. MARVEL JR. OUGHT TO HELP HER! I'LL LOWER YOUR GAGS, BOYS!
CAPTAIN MARVEL!
SHAZAM!
BAM! POW SOCK!
TWIN LIGHTNING BRINGS THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MAN AND THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST BOY, WHO RUSH TO THE AID OF THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST GIRL!
POW
KEEP IT UP ALL DAY IF YOU LIKE! I DON'T FEEL A THING!
BUT EVEN THE MIGHTY MARVEL FAMILY IS UNABLE TO DEFEAT BLACK ADAM!

HEAVENS! THIS IS A DREADFUL SITUATION FOR THE MARVEL FAMILY! I MUST SUMMON OLD SHAZAM AND ASK FOR HIS HELP! HOW CAN WE DEFEAT BLACK ADAM, O SHAZAM?
BIFF!
BAM!
POW!
GET HIM TO SPEAK MY NAME!

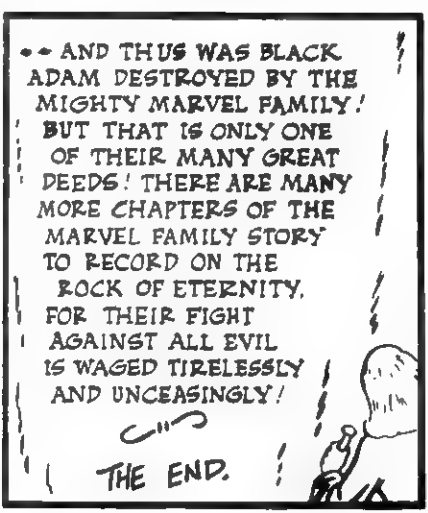
STOP, KIDS! HE'S SO STRONG, LET'S MAKE HIM A MEMBER OF THE MARVEL FAMILY! AFTER ALL, HE GOT HIS POWERS FROM OLD MAZHAM! I MEAN... HAMSHAZ! NO I MEAN SHAMHAZ!.. ER... UH...
YOU SPUTTERING OLD FOOL! YOU MEAN SHAZAM!

ULPS! NO, I DIDN'T MEAN TO SAY THAT WORD! I WAS TRICKED! I TAKE IT BACK-- GULP! TOO LATE!
THE MAGIC LIGHTNING BLASTS DOWN!


AND BLACK ADAM CHANGES TO HIS OTHER FORM OF TETH-ADAM!
GOOD WORK, UNCLE! AND NOW, BEFORE THIS BLACKGUARD CAN SAY THE WORD AGAIN...
SHAZ-UGGG!


LOOK! HE'S TURNING INTO A WITHERED OLD MAN!
YES, MY CHILDREN! YOU SEE, HE IS OVER 5000 YEARS OLD! THE MOMENT HE CHANGED BACK TO HIS MORTAL FORM OF TETH-ADAM, HE AGED! HE WILL ONLY BE A SKELETON IN A MOMENT! BLACK ADAM IS DESTROYED!

MY DEEPEST THANKS! YOU HAVE DESTROYED MY MOST TERRIBLE MISTAKE! I AM GLAD I HAVE LEFT MY POWERS IN THE HANDS OF THE GREAT AND GOOD MARVEL FAMILY! FAREWELL!


AND THUS WAS BLACK ADAM DESTROYED BY THE MIGHTY MARVEL FAMILY! BUT THAT IS ONLY ONE OF THEIR MANY GREAT DEEDS! THERE ARE MANY MORE CHAPTERS OF THE MARVEL FAMILY STORY TO RECORD ON THE ROCK OF ETERNITY. FOR THEIR FIGHT AGAINST ALL EVIL IS WAGED TIRELESSLY AND UNCEASINGLY!
THE END.

TALES OF THE LEGION of SUPER-HEROES

THOUGH THE WORLD OF THE DISTANT FUTURE ABOUNDS WITH MANY MARVELOUS INNOVATIONS WHICH MAKE LIFE HAPPIER FOR THE PEOPLES OF MANY PLANETS, COUNTER-BALANCING THIS ARE FANTASTIC PERILS! THE DYNAMIC **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES** WAS FORMED TO COMBAT THESE INCREDIBLE THREATS, FOR EACH LEGION MEMBER POSSESSES AT LEAST ONE AMAZING SUPER-POWER! ONE FATEFUL DAY, HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THE EARTH HAS SEEN THE LAST OF THE LEGION'S MIGHTY DEEDS BECAUSE OF THE MAD MENACE OF.. The

FACE BEHIND the LEAD MASK!

MY X-RAY VISION IS POWERLESS TO SEE THROUGH YOUR LEAD MASK AND COSTUME! WHO ARE YOU?

I'LL TELL YOU, SUPERBOY... ONLY AFTER I DEFEAT EVERY MEMBER OF THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES... INCLUDING **YOU!**

SUPER-HERO CLUBHOUSE

INSIDE THIS METROPOLIS CLUBHOUSE IN THE 21ST CENTURY, THERE EXISTS ONE OF THE MOST AMAZING BANDS OF ALL TIME...THE **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES!**

AND NOW, LET'S LOOK INTO THE CLUB'S HALL OF **HEROES**, WHICH HONORS ITS TEEN AGED MEMBERS, EACH OF WHOM POSSESSES **AT LEAST** ONE SPECIAL SUPER-POWER!

COSMIC BOY SUPER-MAGNETISM

SATURN GIRL SUPER TELEPATHY

LIGHTNING LAD SUPER ELECTRICITY

SUN BOY SUPER RADIANCE

CHAMELEON BOY SUPER DISGUISE

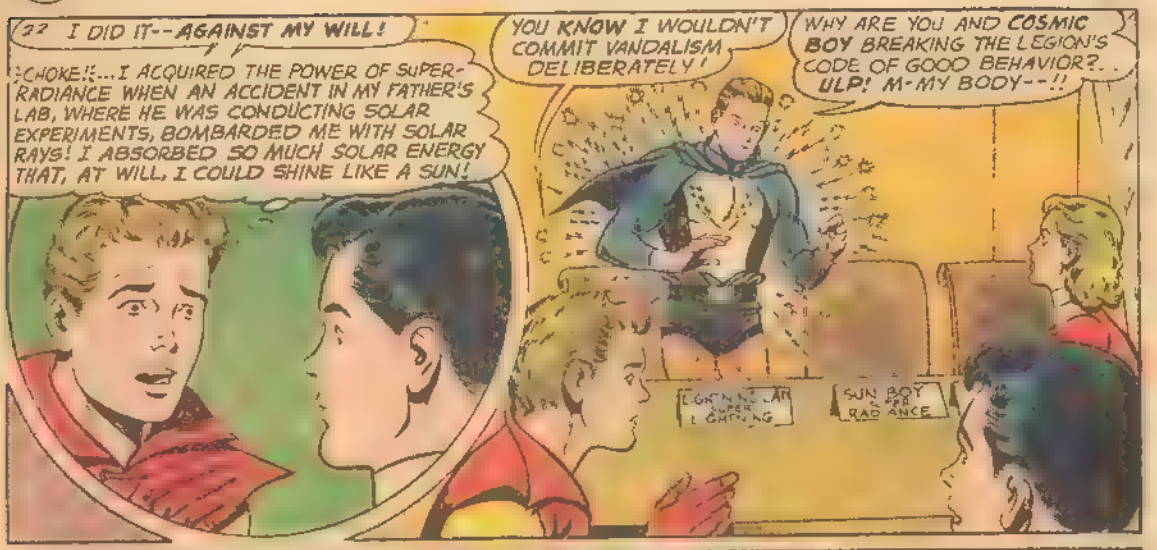
BOUNDING BOOTS SUPER BOUNDING

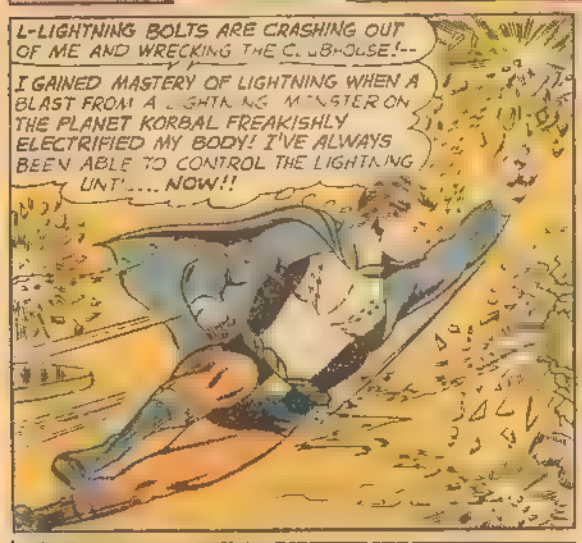
SHRINKING SUIT SUPER SHRINKING

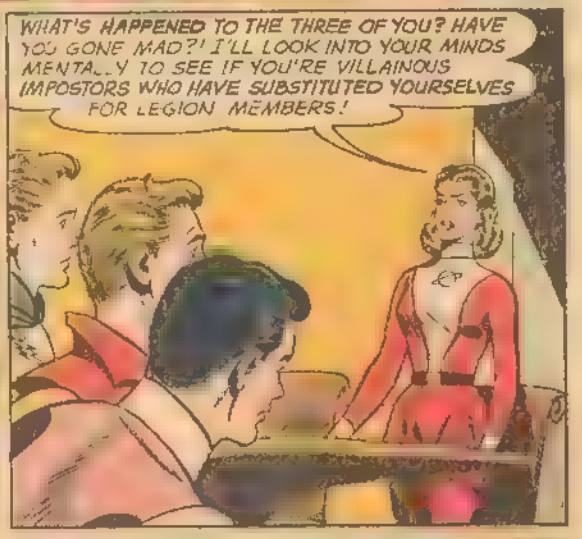
INVISIBLE KID SUPER INVISIBILITY

SUPERBOY X-RAY VISION SUPER-BREATH

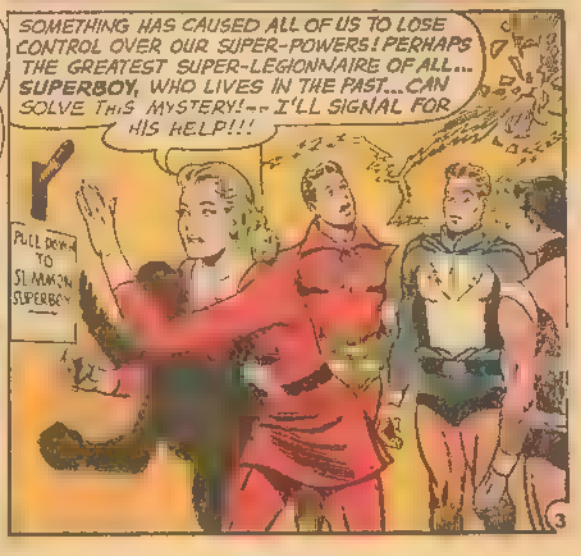
OUR STORY OPENS AS COSMIC BOY CALLS A MEETING OF THE LEGION TO ORDER
THERE ARE ONLY A FEW OF US HERE TODAY, BECAUSE MOST MEMBERS ARE AWAY VISITING DIFFERENT PLANETS ON VARIOUS SPACE MISSIONS!...PLEASE, BE SEATED, SATURN GIRL!
LIGHTNING LAD SUPER LIGHTNING
SUN BOY SUPER
COSMIC BOY SUPER-MAGNETISM
SATURN GIRL SUPER
SOON..
THIS MEETING IS BEING FILMED BY A ROBOT CAMERAMAN. IT WILL BE SHOWN ON MANY PLANETS AS A STERN WARNING TO INTER-PLANETARY CROOKS TO MEND THEIR WAYS, OR FACE CAPTURE BY THE LEGION!
SATURN GIRL SUPER
SUDDENLY..
YAAGHH!- AN INVISIBLE MAGNETIC FORCE IS SMASHING ME.. AND CAMERA
COSMIC BOY SUPER-MAGNETISM
BOTH THE ROBOT AND THE CAMERA ARE MADE OF METAL! YOUR SUPER-MAGNETIC POWERS MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS OUTRAGE, COSMIC BOY!
GULP!! I LOST CONTROL OF MY POWERS...DON'T KNOW WHY...
I INHERITED MY POWER FROM MY PARENTS WHO CAME FROM THE PLANET BRAAL. THERE, EVOLUTION GAVE PEOPLE THE POWER TO MAGNETICALLY BATTLE THAT WORLD'S METAL MONSTERS!
IT'S A SUPREME CRIME FOR BRAALIANS TO MIS-USE THEIR SUPER-MAGNETIC POWERS!.. GREAT SCOTT! JUST LOOK AT WHAT YOU'RE DOING! HEAT RAYS FROM YOUR FINGERS ARE MELTING DOWN THE ROBOT AND CAMERA INTO.. MOLTEN METAL!!
AWP! Y-YOU'RE R.GHT!!
BOY RABBIT
2

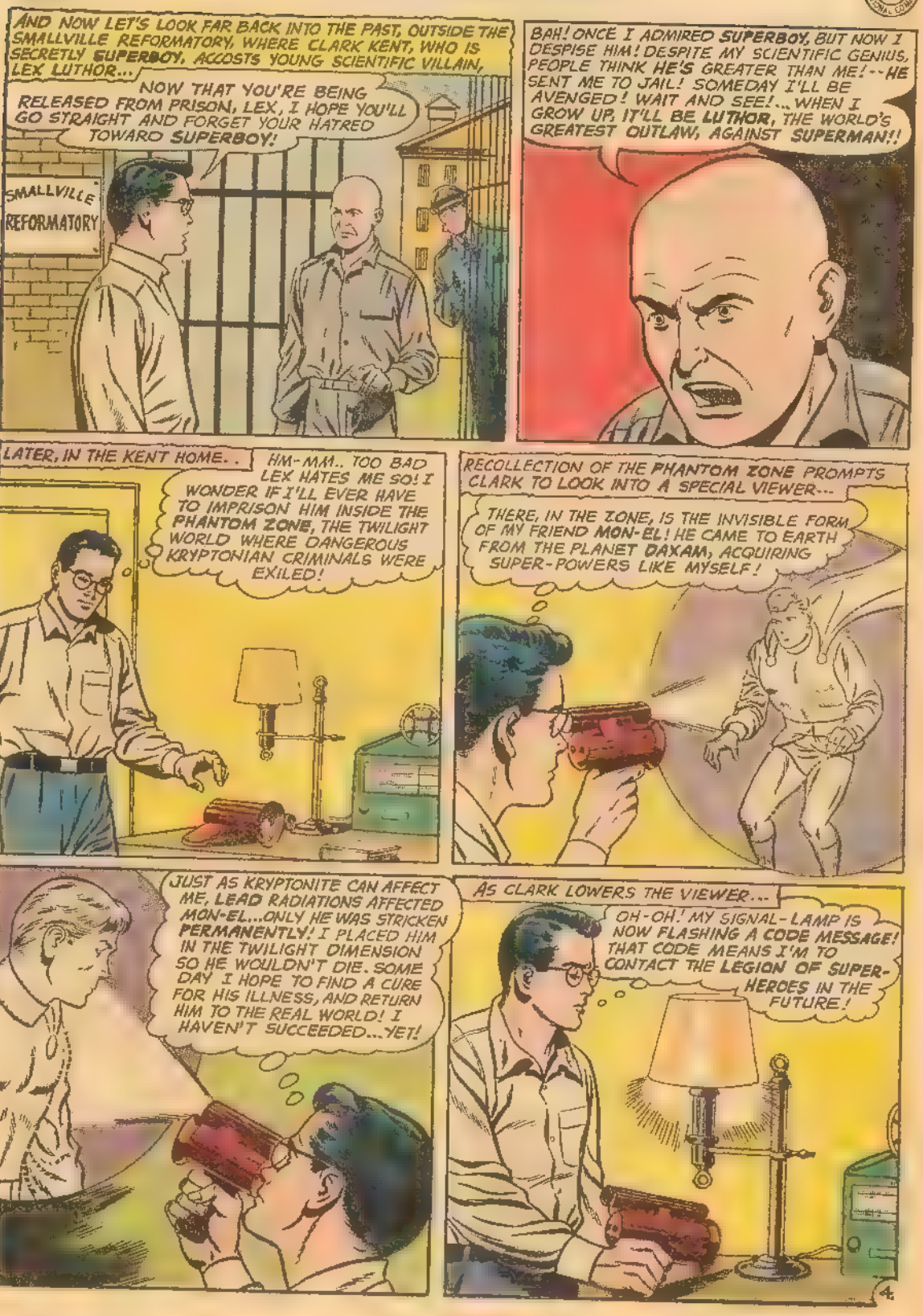

I DID IT--AGAINST MY WILL!
CHOKE!!...I ACQUIRED THE POWER OF SUPER-RADIANCE WHEN AN ACCIDENT IN MY FATHER'S LAB, WHERE HE WAS CONDUCTING SOLAR EXPERIMENTS, BOMBARDED ME WITH SOLAR RAYS! I ABSORBED SO MUCH SOLAR ENERGY THAT, AT WILL, I COULD SHINE LIKE A SUN!
YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T COMMIT VANDALISM DELIBERATELY!
WHY ARE YOU AND COSMIC BOY BREAKING THE LEGION'S CODE OF GOOD BEHAVIOR?..
ULP! M-MY BODY--!!


L-LIGHTNING BOLTS ARE CRASHING OUT OF ME AND WRECKING THE CLUBHOUSE!--
I GAINED MASTERY OF LIGHTNING WHEN A BLAST FROM A LIGHTNING MONSTER ON THE PLANET KORBAL FREAKISHLY ELECTRIFIED MY BODY! I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO CONTROL THE LIGHTNING UNTI.... NOW!!


WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE THREE OF YOU? HAVE YOU GONE MAD?! I'LL LOOK INTO YOUR MINDS MENTALLY TO SEE IF YOU'RE VILLAINOUS IMPOSTORS WHO HAVE SUBSTITUTED YOURSELVES FOR LEGION MEMBERS!

NEXT INSTANT...
YOUR MIND-PROBING --HURTS!!
OWW!-- MY ACHING BRAIN!!
THIS IS AGONIZING, SATURN GIRL!
I-I'LL TURN IT OFF!-- LIKE MYSELF, EVERYONE FROM SATURN CAN PERFORM AMAZING MENTAL FEATS! BUT ONLY EVIL SATURNIANS USE THIS POWER TO HARM OTHERS! I WOULDN'T!

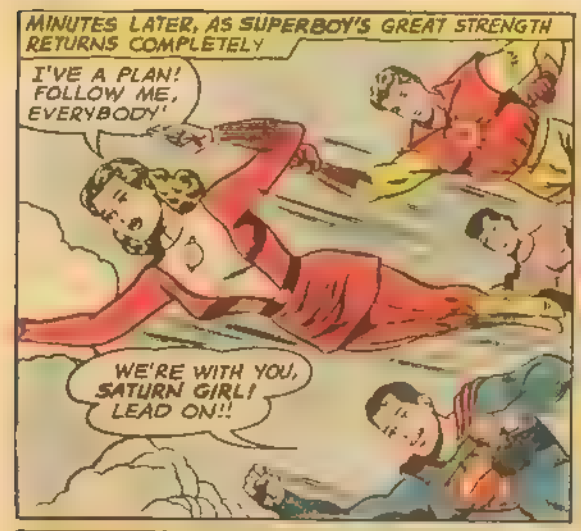

SOMETHING HAS CAUSED ALL OF US TO LOSE CONTROL OVER OUR SUPER-POWERS! PERHAPS THE GREATEST SUPER-LEGIONNAIRE OF ALL... SUPERBOY, WHO LIVES IN THE PAST...CAN SOLVE THIS MYSTERY!-- I'LL SIGNAL FOR HIS HELP!!!
PULL DOWN TO SUMMON SUPERBOY

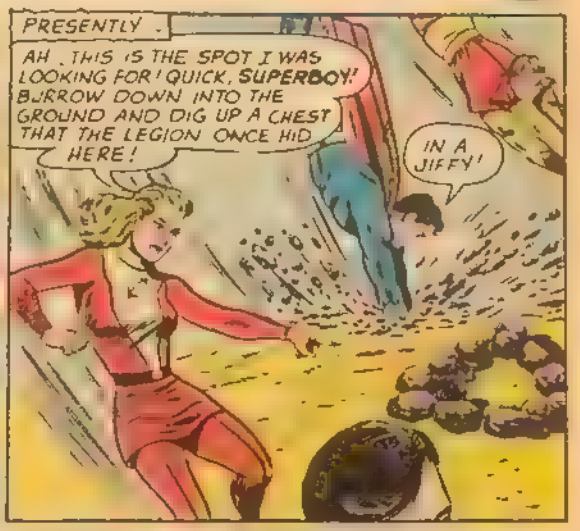

AND NOW LET'S LOOK FAR BACK INTO THE PAST, OUTSIDE THE SMALLVILLE REFORMATORY, WHERE CLARK KENT, WHO IS SECRETLY SUPERBOY, ACCOSTS YOUNG SCIENTIFIC VILLAIN, LEX LUTHOR...
NOW THAT YOU'RE BEING RELEASED FROM PRISON, LEX, I HOPE YOU'LL GO STRAIGHT AND FORGET YOUR HATRED TOWARD SUPERBOY!
SMALLVILLE REFORMATORY
BAH! ONCE I ADMIRED SUPERBOY, BUT NOW I DESPISE HIM! DESPITE MY SCIENTIFIC GENIUS, PEOPLE THINK HE'S GREATER THAN ME!--HE SENT ME TO JAIL! SOMEDAY I'LL BE AVENGED! WAIT AND SEE!... WHEN I GROW UP, IT'LL BE LUTHOR, THE WORLD'S GREATEST OUTLAW, AGAINST SUPERMAN!!
LATER, IN THE KENT HOME..
HM-MM.. TOO BAD LEX HATES ME SO! I WONDER IF I'LL EVER HAVE TO IMPRISON HIM INSIDE THE PHANTOM ZONE, THE TWILIGHT WORLD WHERE DANGEROUS KRYPTONIAN CRIMINALS WERE EXILED!
RECOLLECTION OF THE PHANTOM ZONE PROMPTS CLARK TO LOOK INTO A SPECIAL VIEWER...
THERE, IN THE ZONE, IS THE INVISIBLE FORM OF MY FRIEND MON-EL! HE CAME TO EARTH FROM THE PLANET DAXAM, ACQUIRING SUPER-POWERS LIKE MYSELF!
JUST AS KRYPTONITE CAN AFFECT ME, LEAD RADIATIONS AFFECTED MON-EL...ONLY HE WAS STRICKEN PERMANENTLY! I PLACED HIM IN THE TWILIGHT DIMENSION SO HE WOULDN'T DIE. SOME DAY I HOPE TO FIND A CURE FOR HIS ILLNESS, AND RETURN HIM TO THE REAL WORLD! I HAVEN'T SUCCEEDED...YET!
AS CLARK LOWERS THE VIEWER...
OH-OH! MY SIGNAL-LAMP IS NOW FLASHING A CODE MESSAGE! THAT CODE MEANS I'M TO CONTACT THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES IN THE FUTURE!

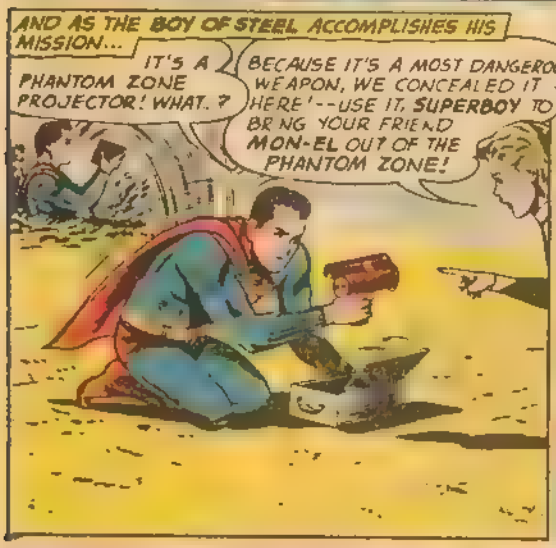
SWITCHING IDENTITIES, CLARK STREAKS OUT OF HIS HOME'S SECRET TUNNEL AND INTO THE SKY AT SUCH SUPER-SPEED THAT HE CRASHES THE TIME-BARRIER..
TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY, HERE I COME!!
AND AS THE BOY OF STEEL EMERGES INTO THE DISTANT FUTURE, AND FLIES TO HIS DESTINATION...
;GASP!;... THE SUPER-HERO CLUBHOUSE IS BEING BLASTED APART BY LIGHTNING LAD'S BOLTS OF ELECTRICITY! HAS HE GONE MAD?
RAPIDLY, SUPERBOY REPAIRS THE SHATTERED CLUBHOUSE WITH THE SUPER-FRICTION OF HIS HANDS..
I'VE REPAIRED THE DAMAGE NOW TELL ME- WHY DID YOU MISUSE YOUR POWER, LIGHTNING LAD?!
FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON, WE CAN NO LONGER CONTROL OUR POWERS! YOU MUST HELP US, SUPERBOY!
SUPER HERO CLUBHOUSE
SUDDENLY..
;ULP!; IT'S HAPPENING TO ME, AGAIN! I'M GLOWING AGAINST MY WILL! I'LL USE MY ANTI-GRAVITY BELT TO GET AWAY BEFORE I BURN INNOCENT BYSTANDERS TO A CRISP!
RUN! THE SUPER-HEROES HAVE BECOME SUPER-MENACES!!
I'LL KEEP TRACK OF HIM WITH MY TELESCOPIC VISION!
AS SUN BOY SPEEDS TO THE ARCTIC, AND SUPERBOY FOLLOWS HIS FLIGHT WITH HIS TELESCOPIC VISION...
GREAT KRYPTON! THE GIGANTIC MOUNTAIN OF ICE IS MELTING FROM THE TERRIFIC HEAT RADIATING FROM HIS BODY! AMAZING!
PRESENTLY, WHEN HE REGAINS CONTROL OF HIS SUPER-RADIANCE, SUN BOY REJOINS HIS FRIENDS...
;CHOKE!; WHAT'S HAPPENED? OUR SUPER-POWERS MALFUNCTION WHEN WE LEAST EXPECT IT! CAN YOU SOLVE THIS MYSTERY, SUPERBOY?
OH-OH HERE COMES MORE TROUBLE!!

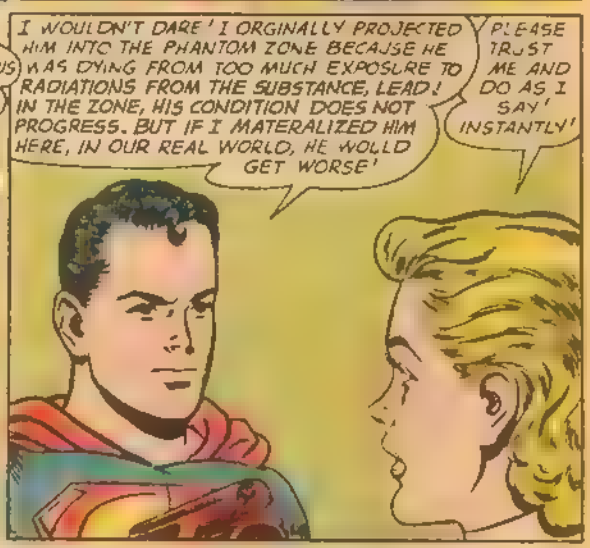
DOWN TOWARD THE CLUBHOUSE FLASHES AN OFFICIAL CRAFT
ATTENTION, SUPER-HEROES! THIS IS WORLD-WIDE POLICE! UNLESS YOU REGAIN MASTERY OF YOUR SUPER-POWERS WITHIN ONE HOUR, YOU WILL BE EXILED FROM EARTH!
SUPER HERO CLUBHOUSE
THOUGH YOU'VE ALWAYS AIDED THE LAW, WE CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO REMAIN HERE IF YOUR UNCONTROLLED POWERS MENACE THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE!
GOOD LUCK, LEGIONNAIRES! WE'LL BE BACK IN AN HOUR TO MAKE SURE YOU LEAVE!
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO HELP US, SUPERBOY?
PERHAPS! I'LL START BY EXAMINING YOUR BODIES WITH MY X-RAY VISION...
.. TO SEE IF YOU'RE SUFFERING FROM SOME STRANGE INFECTION WHICH HAS AFFECTED CONTROL OF YOUR SUPER-POWERS!...HM-MM! YOUR BODIES APPEAR NORMAL!
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME SUPERBOY! I DID THIS TO THEM!
CLUBHOUSE
A MASKED, FLYING MAN!
I AM... "URTHLO"! WITH THIS POWER-NULLIFYING GADGET, I CAN TURN THE SUPER-HEROES' POWERS ON OR OFF, AT WILL, HA, HA!
YOU FIEND!
SOME "HEROES", HA, HA!... NOW YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE EARTH-- AND WHEN THE OTHER SUPER-HEROES RETURN FROM THEIR SPACE MISSIONS, I'LL FORCE THEM TO LEAVE THIS PLANET, TOO!
I CAN'T SEE HIS FACE THROUGH THAT LEAD MASK! MY X-RAY VISION CAN'T PENETRATE LEAD!

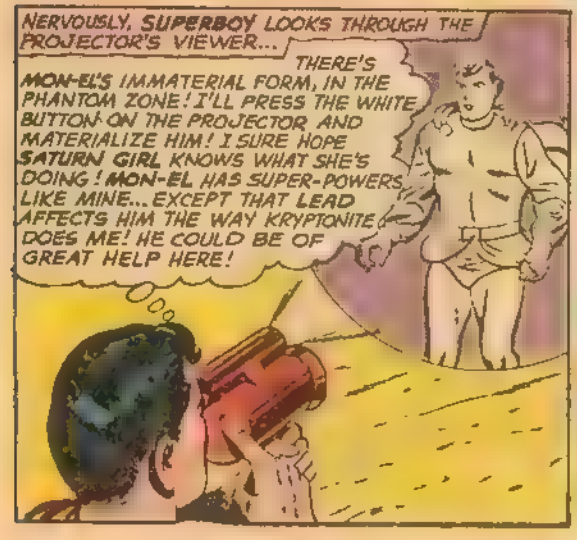
"URTHLO"! THE NAME IS UNFAM LIAR! WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO US? AND WHY ARE YOU WEARING THAT METAL MASK? WHO ARE YOU?
THAT'S MY SECRET, HA, HA!
MAYBE HE'S LYING ABOUT BEING ABLE TO CONTROL OUR POWERS COMPLETELY.. ULP! MY MAGNETIC POWER DOESN'T WORK ON HIM!
MY SUPER-RADIANCE! I CAN'T TURN IT ON!
MY SUPER-LIGHTNING ABILITY HAS FAILED ME!
I CAN'T READ HIS MIND!
:CHUCKLE!: I'VE TURNED OFF ALL YOUR SUPER-POWERS!
BUT YOU CAN'T AFFECT ME! I'M VULNERABLE ONLY TO KRYPTONITE! GIVE ME THAT GADGET!
SUDDENLY, TO THE SHOCKED DISMAY OF THE SUPER-HEROES .
SO ONLY KRYPTONITE CAN HARM YOU, EH?... ENJOY MY GREEN KRYPTONITE VISION!!
OWW!... TH-THE PAIN ' .:MOAN!:
AS HIS FELLOW LEGIONNAIRES PICK UP THE BOY OF STEEL AND FLY OFF WITH HIM..
THE PAIN.. AND MY F-FEELING OF WEAKNESS ARE... GOING AWAY...
I'M ALLOWING YOU TO FLY OFF, THOUGH I COULD EASILY TURN OFF THE FLIGHT POWER OF YOUR FLYING BELTS!
FLY AWAY, LEGIONNAIRES! FLEE, AND TRY DESPERATELY TO THINK OF SOME WAY TO COMBAT MIGHTY "URTHLO" EFFECTIVELY! SUFFER LIKE TRAPPED RATS--BECAUSE IN FIFTEEN MINUTES I'LL HUNT YOU DOWN AND DESTROY YOU!

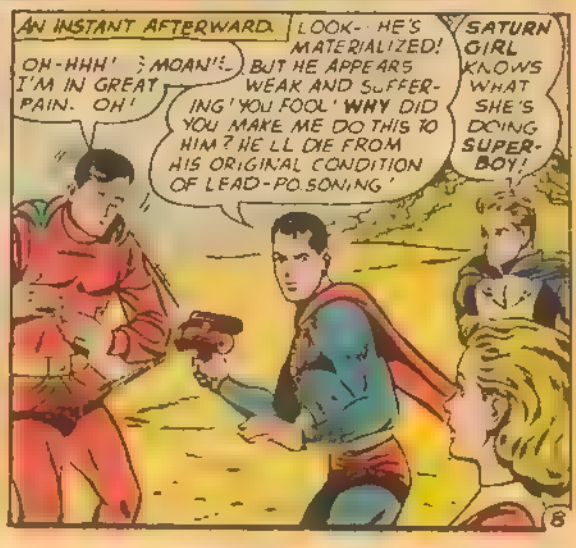

MINUTES LATER, AS SUPERBOY'S GREAT STRENGTH RETURNS COMPLETELY
I'VE A PLAN! FOLLOW ME, EVERYBODY!
WE'RE WITH YOU, SATURN GIRL! LEAD ON!!


PRESENTLY
AH, THIS IS THE SPOT I WAS LOOKING FOR! QUICK, SUPERBOY! BURROW DOWN INTO THE GROUND AND DIG UP A CHEST THAT THE LEGION ONCE HID HERE!
IN A JIFFY!

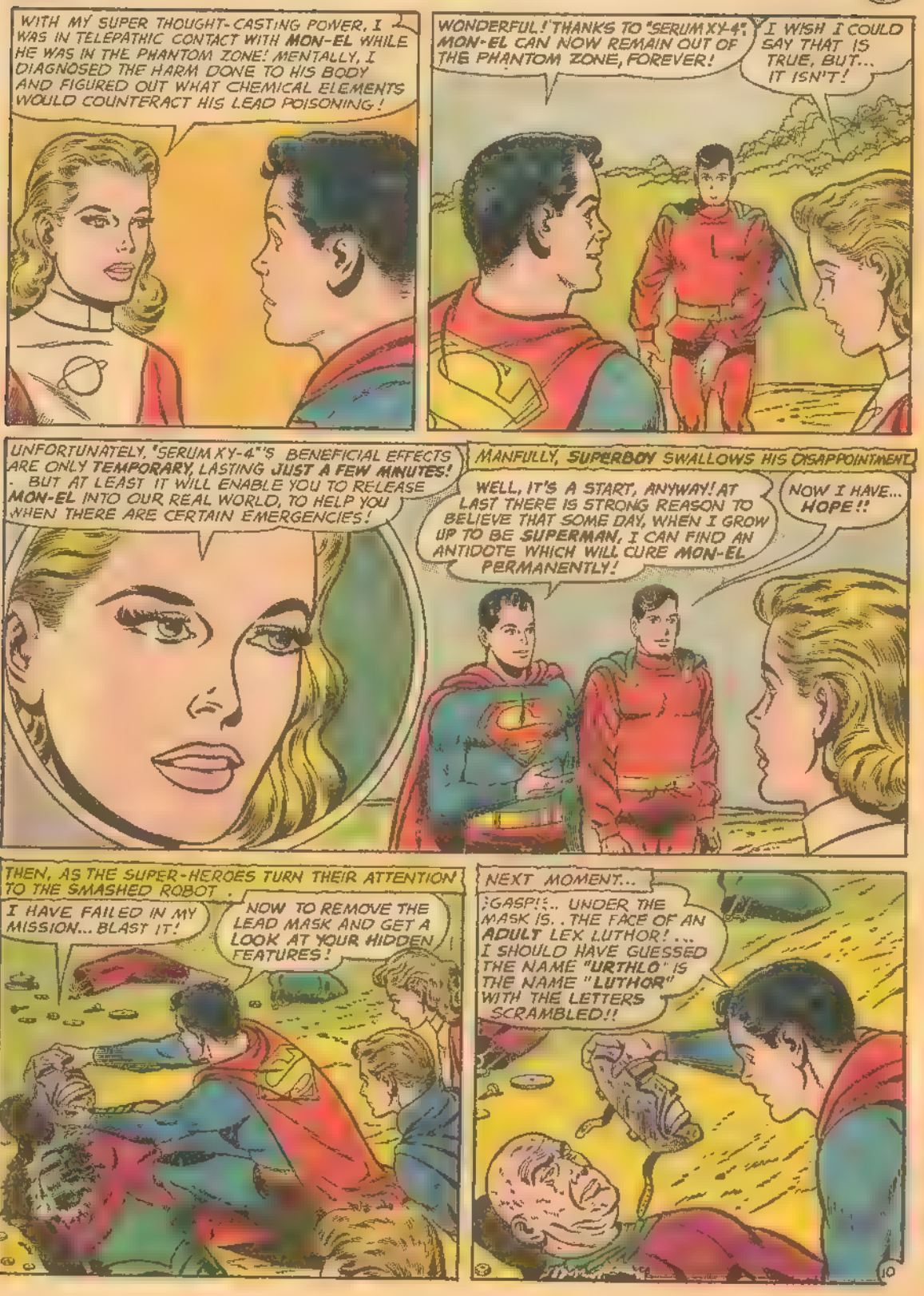

AND AS THE BOY OF STEEL ACCOMPLISHES HIS MISSION...
IT'S A PHANTOM ZONE PROJECTOR! WHAT. ?
BECAUSE IT'S A MOST DANGEROUS WEAPON, WE CONCEALED IT HERE'--USE IT, SUPERBOY TO BRING YOUR FRIEND MON-EL OUT OF THE PHANTOM ZONE!


I WOULDN'T DARE' I ORGINALLY PROJECTED HIM INTO THE PHANTOM ZONE BECAUSE HE WAS DYING FROM TOO MUCH EXPOSURE TO RADIATIONS FROM THE SUBSTANCE, LEAD! IN THE ZONE, HIS CONDITION DOES NOT PROGRESS. BUT IF I MATERALIZED HIM HERE, IN OUR REAL WORLD, HE WOULD GET WORSE'
PLEASE TRUST ME AND DO AS I SAY' INSTANTLY'

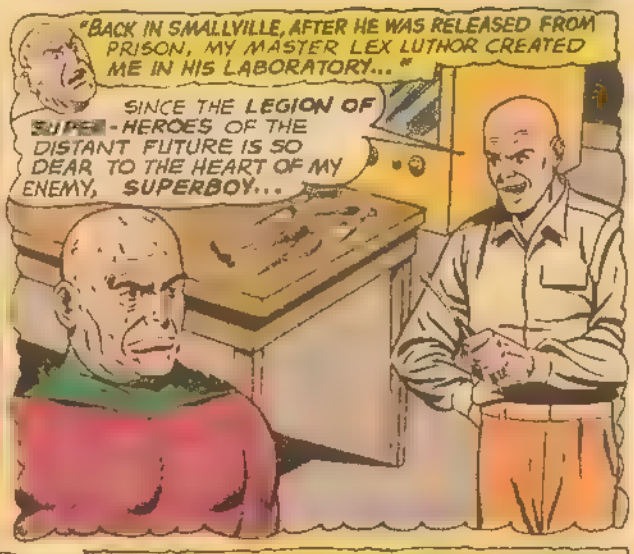

NERVOUSLY, SUPERBOY LOOKS THROUGH THE PROJECTOR'S VIEWER...
THERE'S MON-EL'S IMMATERIAL FORM, IN THE PHANTOM ZONE! I'LL PRESS THE WHITE BUTTON ON THE PROJECTOR AND MATERIALIZE HIM! I SURE HOPE SATURN GIRL KNOWS WHAT SHE'S DOING! MON-EL HAS SUPER-POWERS LIKE MINE... EXCEPT THAT LEAD AFFECTS HIM THE WAY KRYPTONITE DOES ME! HE COULD BE OF GREAT HELP HERE!

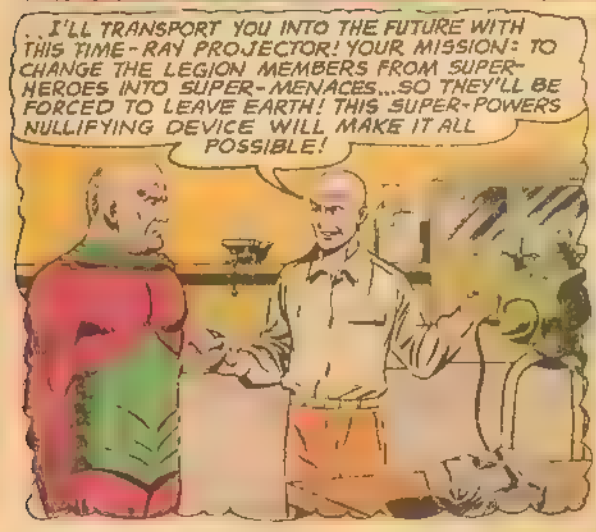

AN INSTANT AFTERWARD.
LOOK- HE'S MATERIALIZED! BUT HE APPEARS WEAK AND SUFFERING! YOU FOOL! WHY DID YOU MAKE ME DO THIS TO HIM? HE'LL DIE FROM HIS ORIGINAL CONDITION OF LEAD-POISONING'
OH-HHH' MOAN! I'M IN GREAT PAIN. OH'
SATURN GIRL KNOWS WHAT SHE'S DOING SUPER-BOY!

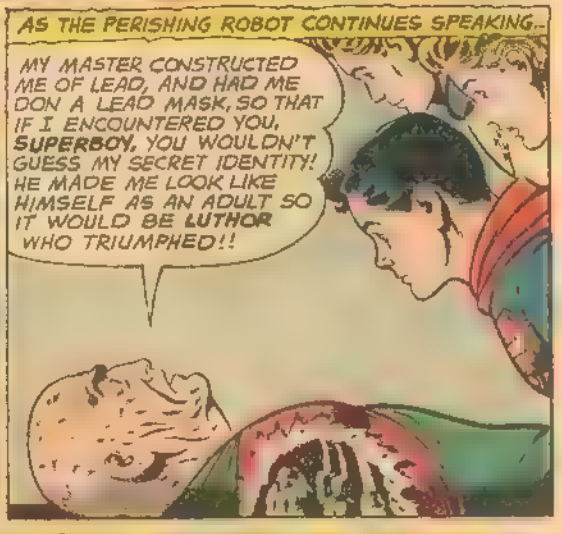
AT THAT MOMENT, "URTHLO" ARRIVES .
HA, HA! YOUR DESPERATE SCHEME TO DEFEAT ME WON'T WORK! MON-EL MAY HAVE SUPER-POWERS ON EARTH . BUT YOU FORGOT I WEAR A LEAD MASK! LEAD RADIATIONS CAN KILL MON-EL, CORRECT?
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR MATERIALIZING YOU, MON-EL ... I-I'VE DOOMED YOU!... :CHOKE!:
NONSENSE! QUICK, MON-EL! DRINK THIS!
AFTER MON-EL DRINKS...
GREAT KRYPTON! MON-EL IS NO LONGER WEAK AND ILL! HE SEEMS WELL AND POWERFUL AGAIN! GREAT! BUT HOW..?!
AND NOW, MON-EL -- PLEASE PROTECT US FROM OUR MYSTERIOUS FOE!
NO, NO! YOU CAN'T HARM ME! I'M MADE OF LEAD! LEAD RADIATIONS ARE SUPPOSED TO MAKE YOU WEAK AND HELPLESS! THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE... IMPOSSIBLE!
SO YOU'RE MADE OF LEAD, EH? THAT DOESN'T BOTHER ME NOW!
MON-EL IS SMASHING "URTHLO" APART WITH ONE MIGHTY BLOW! ...:GASP!:... "URTHLO" IS A ROBOT!
BUT WHY IS MON-EL NO LONGER HARMED BY LEAD RADIATIONS??
THE ANSWER LIES IN THIS BOTTLE .
.. WHICH I'D INTENDED TO GIVE YOU AS A SURPRISE GIFT! KNOWING HOW ANXIOUS YOU ARE TO RELEASE MON-EL FROM THE PHANTOM ZONE AND CURE HIM OF HIS AILMENT, I INVENTED "SERUM XY-4". AN ANTIDOTE FOR POISONING BY LEAD RADIATIONS...

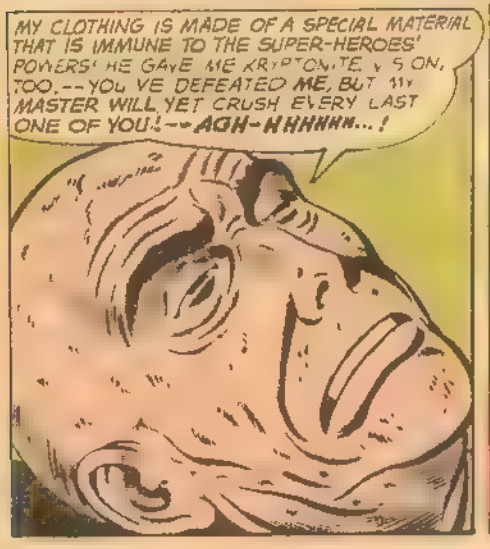

WITH MY SUPER THOUGHT-CASTING POWER, I WAS IN TELEPATHIC CONTACT WITH MON-EL WHILE HE WAS IN THE PHANTOM ZONE! MENTALLY, I DIAGNOSED THE HARM DONE TO HIS BODY AND FIGURED OUT WHAT CHEMICAL ELEMENTS WOULD COUNTERACT HIS LEAD POISONING!
WONDERFUL! THANKS TO "SERUM XY-4", MON-EL CAN NOW REMAIN OUT OF THE PHANTOM ZONE, FOREVER!
I WISH I COULD SAY THAT IS TRUE, BUT... IT ISN'T!
UNFORTUNATELY, "SERUM XY-4"'S BENEFICIAL EFFECTS ARE ONLY TEMPORARY, LASTING JUST A FEW MINUTES! . BUT AT LEAST IT WILL ENABLE YOU TO RELEASE MON-EL INTO OUR REAL WORLD, TO HELP YOU WHEN THERE ARE CERTAIN EMERGENCIES!
MANFULLY, SUPERBOY SWALLOWS HIS DISAPPOINTMENT.
WELL, IT'S A START, ANYWAY! AT LAST THERE IS STRONG REASON TO BELIEVE THAT SOME DAY, WHEN I GROW UP TO BE SUPERMAN, I CAN FIND AN ANTIDOTE WHICH WILL CURE MON-EL PERMANENTLY!
NOW I HAVE... HOPE!!
THEN, AS THE SUPER-HEROES TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO THE SMASHED ROBOT .
I HAVE FAILED IN MY MISSION... BLAST IT!
NOW TO REMOVE THE LEAD MASK AND GET A LOOK AT YOUR HIDDEN FEATURES!
NEXT MOMENT...
:GASP!:.. UNDER THE MASK IS.. THE FACE OF AN ADULT LEX LUTHOR!... I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED THE NAME "URTHLO" IS THE NAME "LUTHOR" WITH THE LETTERS SCRAMBLED!!

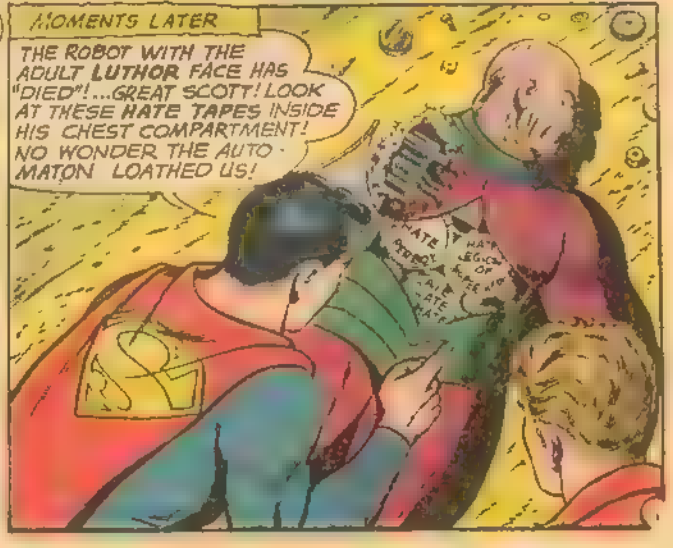
IN A FEW MINUTES MY BROKEN MECHANISM WILL STOP FUNCTIONING! SOON "URTHLO" WILL BE NO MORE! BECAUSE YOU RECOGNIZE THE IMAGE IN WHICH I WAS CREATED, YOU MAY AS WELL KNOW THE REST!

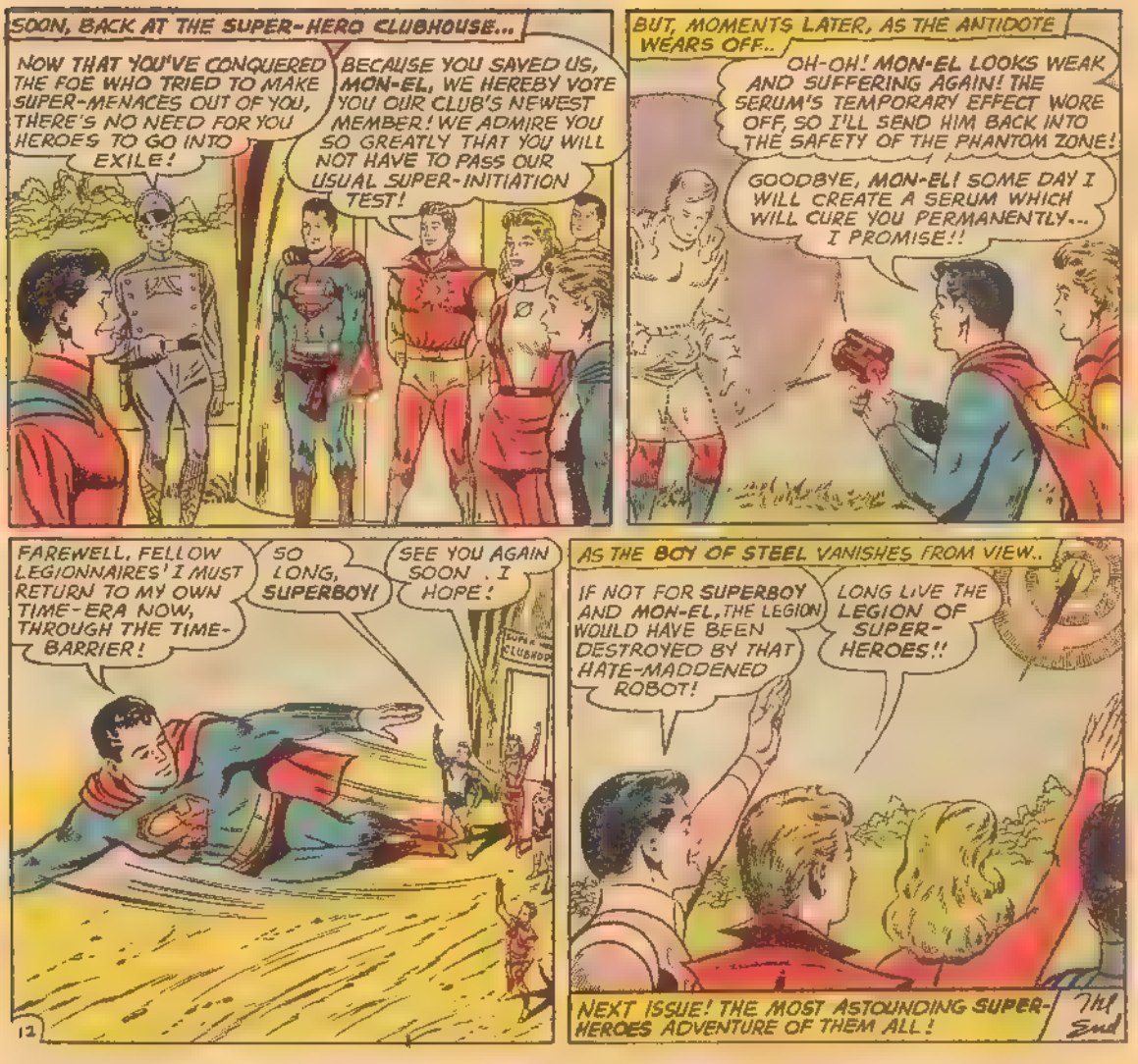

"BACK IN SMALLVILLE, AFTER HE WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON, MY MASTER LEX LUTHOR CREATED ME IN HIS LABORATORY..."
SINCE THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES OF THE DISTANT FUTURE IS SO DEAR TO THE HEART OF MY ENEMY, SUPERBOY...


..I'LL TRANSPORT YOU INTO THE FUTURE WITH THIS TIME-RAY PROJECTOR! YOUR MISSION: TO CHANGE THE LEGION MEMBERS FROM SUPER-HEROES INTO SUPER-MENACES...SO THEY'LL BE FORCED TO LEAVE EARTH! THIS SUPER-POWERS NULLIFYING DEVICE WILL MAKE IT ALL POSSIBLE!


AS THE PERISHING ROBOT CONTINUES SPEAKING..
MY MASTER CONSTRUCTED ME OF LEAD, AND HAD ME DON A LEAD MASK, SO THAT IF I ENCOUNTERED YOU, SUPERBOY, YOU WOULDN'T GUESS MY SECRET IDENTITY! HE MADE ME LOOK LIKE HIMSELF AS AN ADULT SO IT WOULD BE LUTHOR WHO TRIUMPHED!!


MY CLOTHING IS MADE OF A SPECIAL MATERIAL THAT IS IMMUNE TO THE SUPER-HEROES' POWERS! HE GAVE ME KRYPTONITE, TOO,--YOU'VE DEFEATED ME, BUT MY MASTER WILL YET CRUSH EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU!--AGH-HHHHHH...!


A MOMENTS LATER
THE ROBOT WITH THE ADULT LUTHOR FACE HAS "DIED"!...GREAT SCOTT! LOOK AT THESE HATE TAPES INSIDE HIS CHEST COMPARTMENT! NO WONDER THE AUTOMATON LOATHED US!


SOON, BACK AT THE SUPER-HERO CLUBHOUSE...
NOW THAT YOU'VE CONQUERED THE FOE WHO TRIED TO MAKE SUPER-MENACES OUT OF YOU, THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU HEROES TO GO INTO EXILE!
BECAUSE YOU SAVED US, MON-EL, WE HEREBY VOTE YOU OUR CLUB'S NEWEST MEMBER! WE ADMIRE YOU SO GREATLY THAT YOU WILL NOT HAVE TO PASS OUR USUAL SUPER-INITIATION TEST!
BUT, MOMENTS LATER, AS THE ANTIDOTE WEARS OFF..
OH-OH! MON-EL LOOKS WEAK AND SUFFERING AGAIN! THE SERUM'S TEMPORARY EFFECT WORE OFF, SO I'LL SEND HIM BACK INTO THE SAFETY OF THE PHANTOM ZONE!
GOODBYE, MON-EL! SOME DAY I WILL CREATE A SERUM WHICH WILL CURE YOU PERMANENTLY... I PROMISE!!
FAREWELL, FELLOW LEGIONNAIRES! I MUST RETURN TO MY OWN TIME-ERA NOW, THROUGH THE TIME-BARRIER!
SO LONG, SUPERBOY!
SEE YOU AGAIN SOON . I HOPE!
AS THE BOY OF STEEL VANISHES FROM VIEW..
IF NOT FOR SUPERBOY AND MON-EL, THE LEGION WOULD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY THAT HATE-MADDENED ROBOT!
LONG LIVE THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES!!
NEXT ISSUE! THE MOST ASTOUNDING SUPER-HEROES ADVENTURE OF THEM ALL!
THE END
12

ADVERTISEMENT

DO YOU HAVE X-RAY EYES ?

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Tootsie Roll POP

. . . the Delicious TOOTSIE ROLL Center!

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THE HEART OF HAMILTON BENEDICT SWELLED WITH PRIDE LAST EVENING AS HE WALKED THE LAST MILE TO HIS HOME. THREE LARGE-MOUTHED BASS HUNG AT HIS BACK, A BETTER CATCH THAN HE HAD ALL SUMMER. HIS STEPS FALTERED ONLY SLIGHTLY WHEN HE HEARD THE HIGH-PITCHED, SCREAMING WHINE FAR, FAR BEHIND HIM. HE TURNED HIS HEAD AND SAW IT LOW IN THE SKY! IT SEEMED TO BE--COMING--AT--HIM!
EEE EEEEEEEE
A FREAK ACCIDENT? A TRAGEDY..? OR PERHAPS NEITHER OF THESE? PERHAPS YESTERDAY, WHEN THIS HAPPENED, IS NOT IMPORTANT! PERHAPS IT IS TODAY THAT IS IMPORTANT--IMPORTANT TO THE WORLD AND IMPORTANT TO--
SPECTRE!
STOP THAT KID.. BEFORE HE WRECKS THE WORLD!
STORY and ART by NEAL ADAMS

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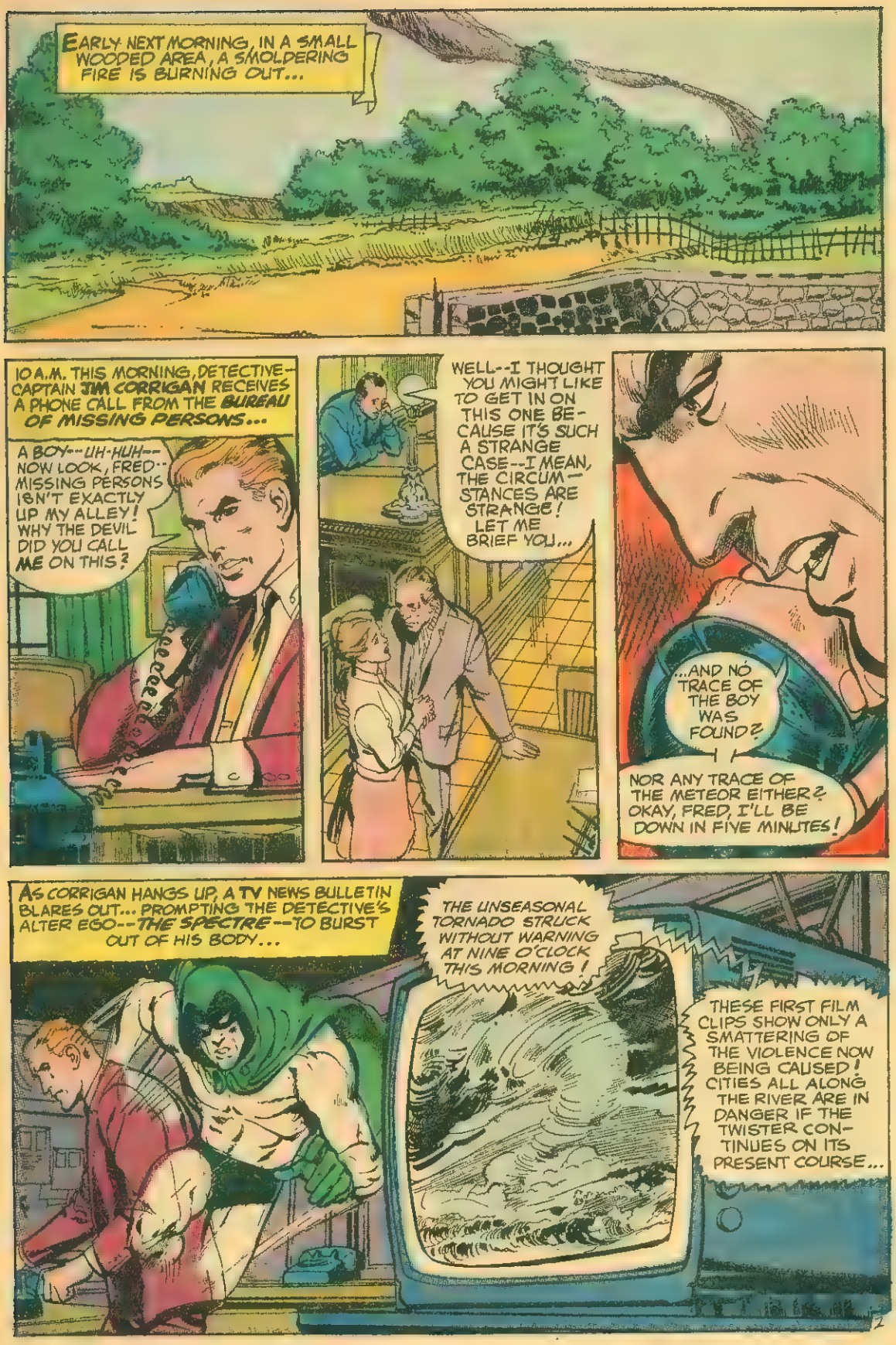
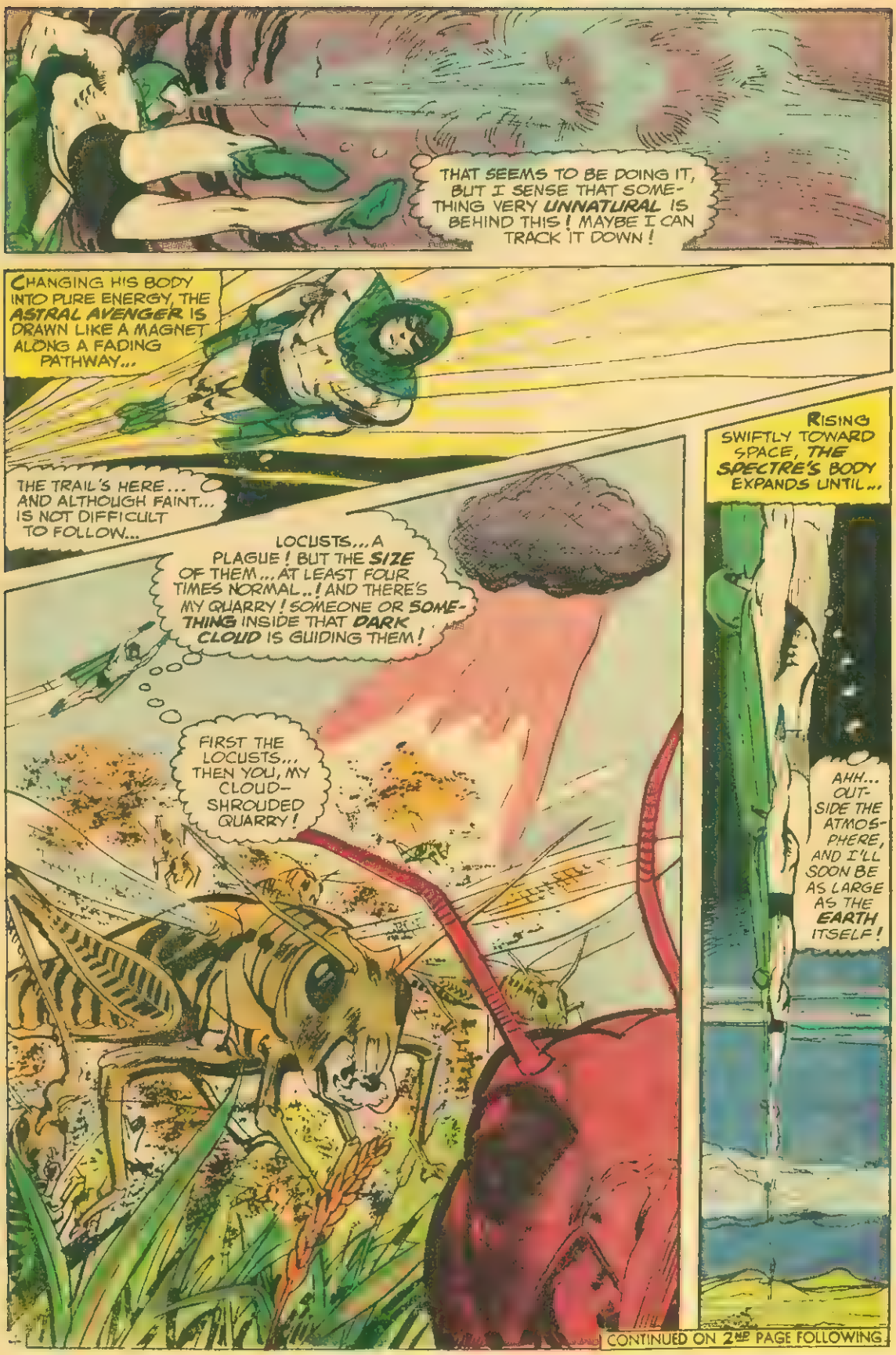

EARLY NEXT MORNING, IN A SMALL WOODED AREA, A SMOLDERING FIRE IS BURNING OUT...
10 A.M. THIS MORNING, DETECTIVE-CAPTAIN JIM CORRIGAN RECEIVES A PHONE CALL FROM THE BUREAU OF MISSING PERSONS...
A BOY--UH-HUH--NOW LOOK, FRED--MISSING PERSONS ISN'T EXACTLY UP MY ALLEY! WHY THE DEVIL DID YOU CALL ME ON THIS?
WELL--I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO GET IN ON THIS ONE BECAUSE IT'S SUCH A STRANGE CASE--I MEAN, THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE STRANGE! LET ME BRIEF YOU...
...AND NO TRACE OF THE BOY WAS FOUND?
NOR ANY TRACE OF THE METEOR EITHER? OKAY, FRED, I'LL BE DOWN IN FIVE MINUTES!
AS CORRIGAN HANGS UP, A TV NEWS BULLETIN BLARES OUT... PROMPTING THE DETECTIVE'S ALTER EGO--THE SPECTRE--TO BURST OUT OF HIS BODY...
THE UNSEASONAL TORNADO STRUCK WITHOUT WARNING AT NINE O'CLOCK THIS MORNING!
THESE FIRST FILM CLIPS SHOW ONLY A SMATTERING OF THE VIOLENCE NOW BEING CAUSED! CITIES ALL ALONG THE RIVER ARE IN DANGER IF THE TWISTER CONTINUES ON ITS PRESENT COURSE...

THAT TORNADO IS EVEN STRANGER THAN YOUR MISSING PERSONS THING, JIM! IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! I'M GOING TO INVESTIGATE IT! SEE YOU LATER!
RIGHT, SPECTRE! THE BOY PROBABLY JUST RAN AWAY! I'LL HAVE THIS WRAPPED UP BEFORE DINNER...
INSTANTS LATER, THE SPECTRE SURVEYS THE SCENE OF THE DISASTER...
THIS MAKES EVEN LESS SENSE NOW! ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS AREN'T RIGHT FOR A TORNADO, YET THERE IT IS, AND IT'S ABOUT TO SWEEP AWAY THAT SMALL TOWN!
THERE'S A TIDAL WAVE COMING IN NOW--GOT TO STOP IT!
VA-ROOOM!
WITH AN AMAZING DISPLAY OF PSYCHIC ENERGY, THE GHOSTLY GUARDIAN ENLARGES THE GRAINS OF SAND AT THE WATER'S EDGE, TO FORM A BARRIER AGAINST THE POUNDING SURF...
THAT SHOULD HOLD IT!
CAN'T GO ON FIGHTING THE TORNADO LIKE THIS! I'LL HAVE TO GET IT AT THE SOURCE!
IF I CAN JUST DRAW THE WIND THAT'S CIRCLING IN THIS DIRECTION AND BLOW IT BACK AGAINST ITSELF...


THAT SEEMS TO BE DOING IT, BUT I SENSE THAT SOMETHING VERY UNNATURAL IS BEHIND THIS! MAYBE I CAN TRACK IT DOWN!
CHANGING HIS BODY INTO PURE ENERGY, THE ASTRAL AVENGER IS DRAWN LIKE A MAGNET ALONG A FADING PATHWAY...
THE TRAIL'S HERE... AND ALTHOUGH FAINT... IS NOT DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW...
LOCUSTS... A PLAGUE! BUT THE SIZE OF THEM... AT LEAST FOUR TIMES NORMAL..! AND THERE'S MY QUARRY! SOMEONE OR SOMETHING INSIDE THAT DARK CLOUD IS GUIDING THEM!
FIRST THE LOCUSTS... THEN YOU, MY CLOUD-SHROUDED QUARRY!
RISING SWIFTLY TOWARD SPACE, THE SPECTRE'S BODY EXPANDS UNTIL...
AHH... OUTSIDE THE ATMOSPHERE, AND I'LL SOON BE AS LARGE AS THE EARTH ITSELF!
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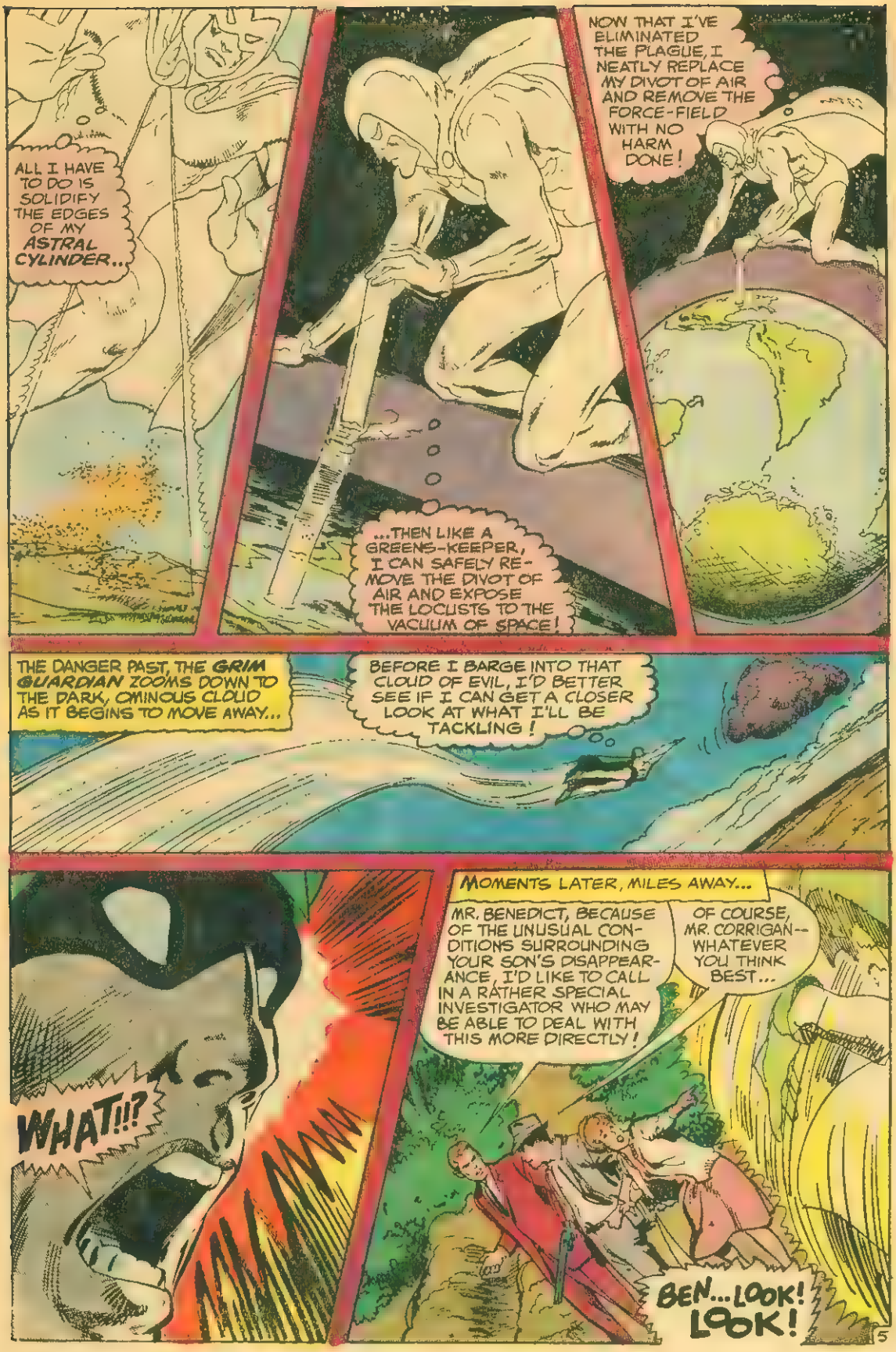
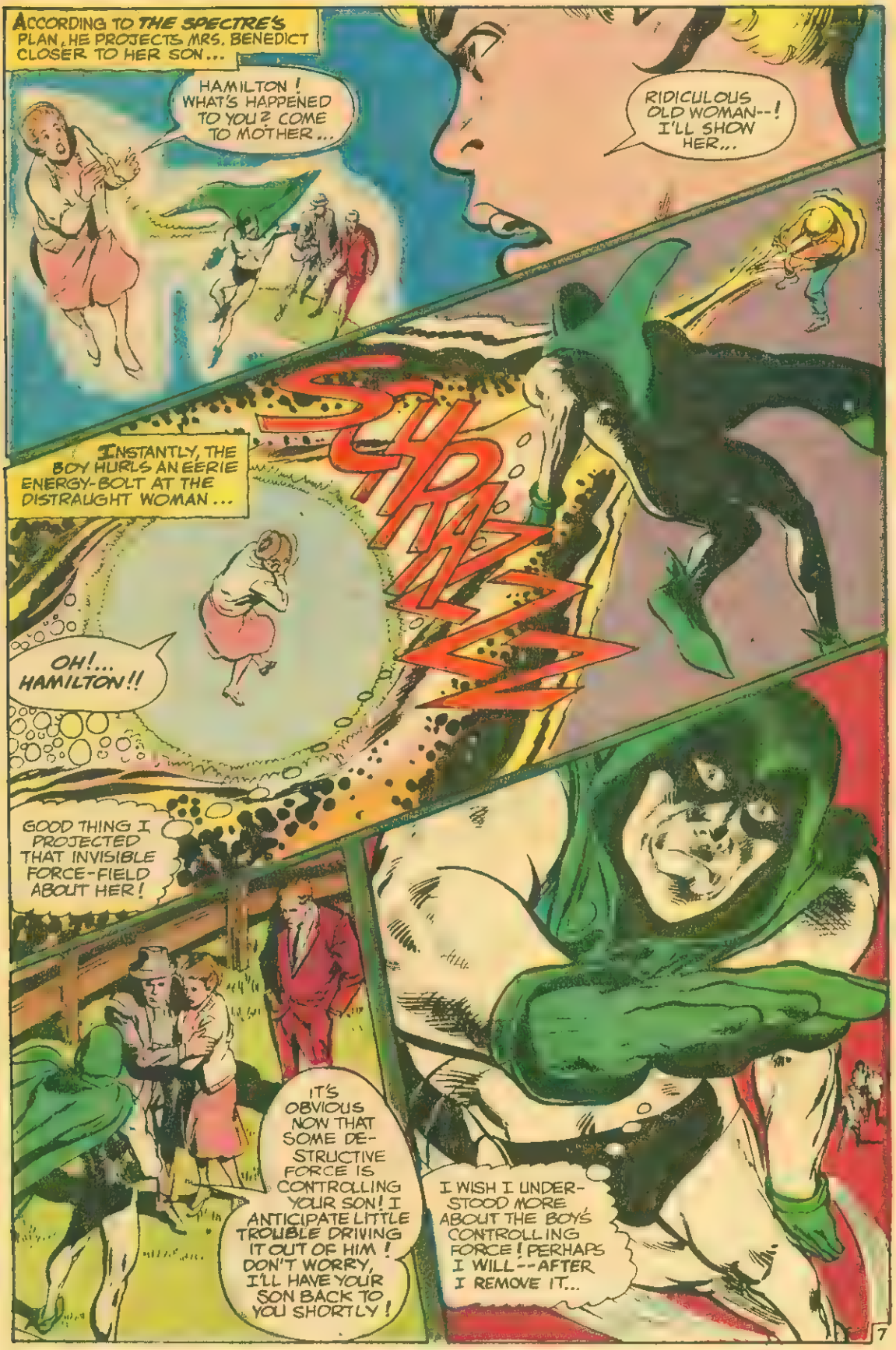
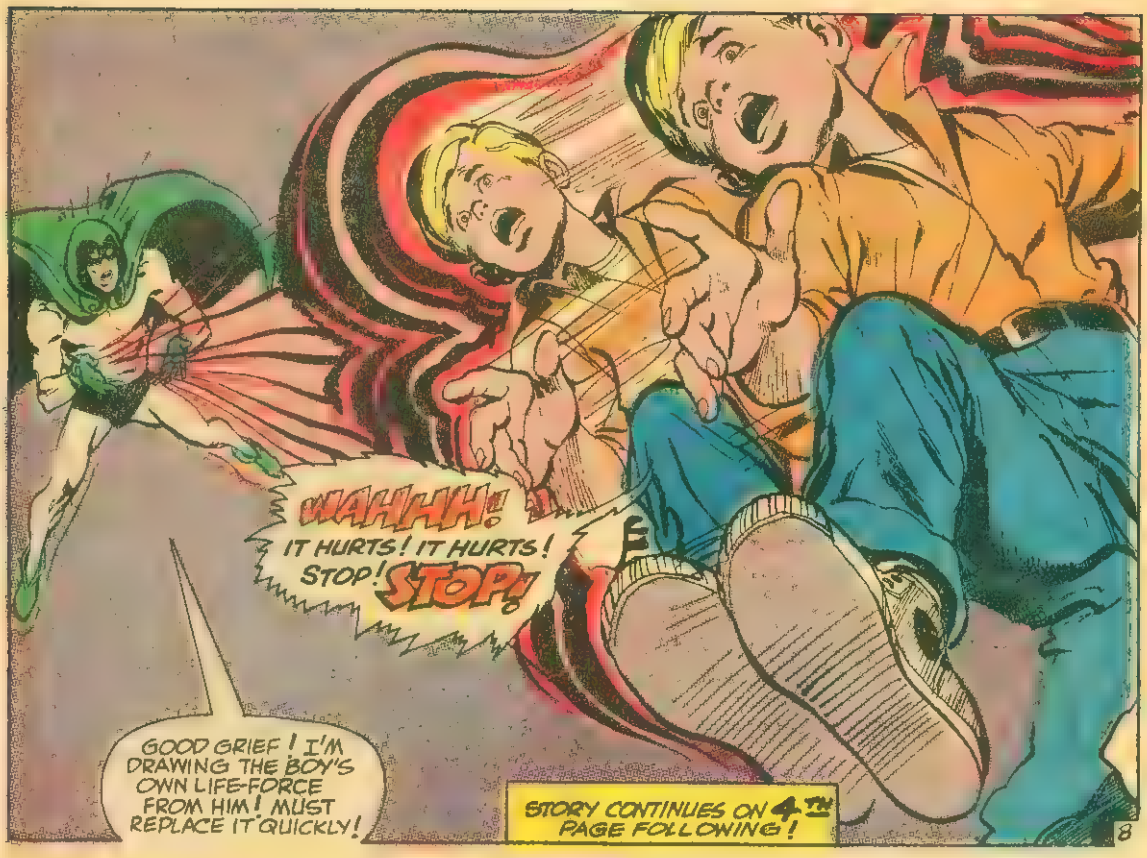
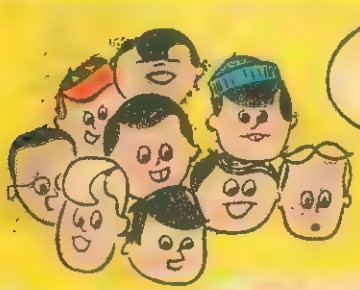

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SOLIDIFY THE EDGES OF MY ASTRAL CYLINDER...
...THEN LIKE A GREENS-KEEPER, I CAN SAFELY REMOVE THE DIVOT OF AIR AND EXPOSE THE LOCUSTS TO THE VACUUM OF SPACE!
NOW THAT I'VE ELIMINATED THE PLAGUE, I NEATLY REPLACE MY DIVOT OF AIR AND REMOVE THE FORCE-FIELD WITH NO HARM DONE!
THE DANGER PAST, THE GRIM GUARDIAN ZOOMS DOWN TO THE DARK, OMINOUS CLOUD AS IT BEGINS TO MOVE AWAY...
BEFORE I BARGE INTO THAT CLOUD OF EVIL, I'D BETTER SEE IF I CAN GET A CLOSER LOOK AT WHAT I'LL BE TACKLING!
WHAT!!?
MOMENTS LATER, MILES AWAY...
MR. BENEDICT, BECAUSE OF THE UNUSUAL CONDITIONS SURROUNDING YOUR SON'S DISAPPEARANCE, I'D LIKE TO CALL IN A RATHER SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR WHO MAY BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THIS MORE DIRECTLY!
OF COURSE, MR. CORRIGAN-- WHATEVER YOU THINK BEST...
BEN...LOOK! LOOK!

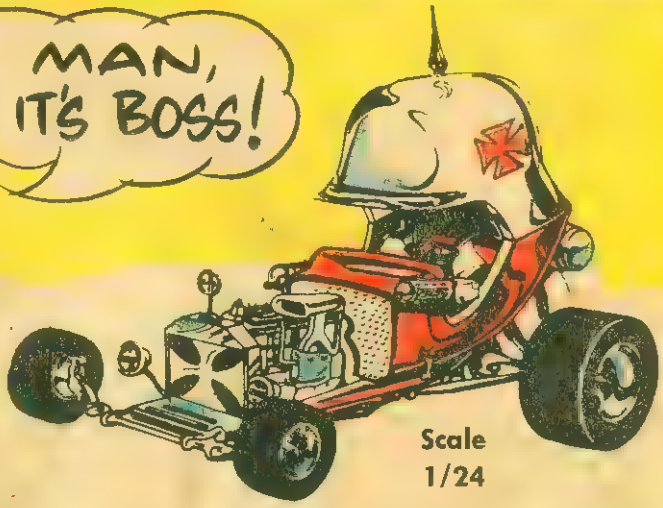
EMMY GET BACK HERE BEHIND ME! IT'S SOME KINDA SPOOK, OR SPACE-MAN OR SOMETHING...
THE SPECTACULAR ENTRANCE OF THE SPECTRE HAS AN UNNERVING EFFECT ON THE BENEDICTS...
NO, NO, MR. BENEDICT! THAT'S THE... AHH... SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR I WAS TALKING ABOUT BEFORE! WE... CALL HIM THE SPECTRE!
UH... SPECTRE, I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU... OVER THERE!
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU KNEW I WAS ABOUT TO CALL ON YOU, BUT THIS CASE LITERALLY SCREAMS OUT FOR YOUR TALENTS! THIS BOY...
...THIS BENEDICT BOY, YOU MEAN... IS NO LONGER MISSING--AND UNFORTUNATELY, THAT FACT ONLY COMPLICATES YOUR PROBLEM AND MINE!
AFTER RECOUNTING THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE PRESENT MOMENT, THE SPECTRE LETS HIS ALTER EGO IN ON THE "SHOCKER"...!
...AS MY VISION PENETRATED THE CLOUD, I COULD CLEARLY SEE A SMALL BOY! THE BOY WHO I BELIEVE IS YOUR MISSING HAMILTON BENEDICT!
AND YOU--JUST LEFT HIM THERE? WHY IN BLAZES DIDN'T YOU GET HIM OUT?
EASY, JIM! I DON'T KNOW THE NATURE OF THE FORCES INVOLVED HERE! I CAN'T TELL WHETHER THE BOY IS IN CONTROL OR SOME POWER CONTROLS HIM! WITH HIS PARENTS' HELP, PERHAPS I CAN FIND OUT...
GOOD ENOUGH! LET'S TALK TO 'EM!
MR. & MRS. BENEDICT QUICKLY AGREE TO HELP THE SPECTRE--AND SOON...
BEFORE I LEFT THE BOY, I SURROUNDED HIM WITH A COMPLICATED PSYCHO-KINETIC FORCE-FIELD! HE'S JUST BREAKING THROUGH NOW!
THROOM
OH! YES! YES! THAT'S OUR HAMILTON!


ACCORDING TO THE SPECTRE'S PLAN, HE PROJECTS MRS. BENEDICT CLOSER TO HER SON...
HAMILTON! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU? COME TO MOTHER...
RIDICULOUS OLD WOMAN--! I'LL SHOW HER...
INSTANTLY, THE BOY HURLS AN EERIE ENERGY-BOLT AT THE DISTRAUGHT WOMAN...
SHRAZZ
OH!... HAMILTON!!
GOOD THING I PROJECTED THAT INVISIBLE FORCE-FIELD ABOUT HER!
IT'S OBVIOUS NOW THAT SOME DESTRUCTIVE FORCE IS CONTROLLING YOUR SON! I ANTICIPATE LITTLE TROUBLE DRIVING IT OUT OF HIM! DON'T WORRY, I'LL HAVE YOUR SON BACK TO YOU SHORTLY!
I WISH I UNDERSTOOD MORE ABOUT THE BOY'S CONTROLLING FORCE! PERHAPS I WILL--AFTER I REMOVE IT...


WAHHH!
IT HURTS! IT HURTS!
STOP! STOP!
GOOD GRIEF! I'M DRAWING THE BOY'S OWN LIFE-FORCE FROM HIM! MUST REPLACE IT QUICKLY!
STORY CONTINUES ON 4TH PAGE FOLLOWING!
8



Red Baron



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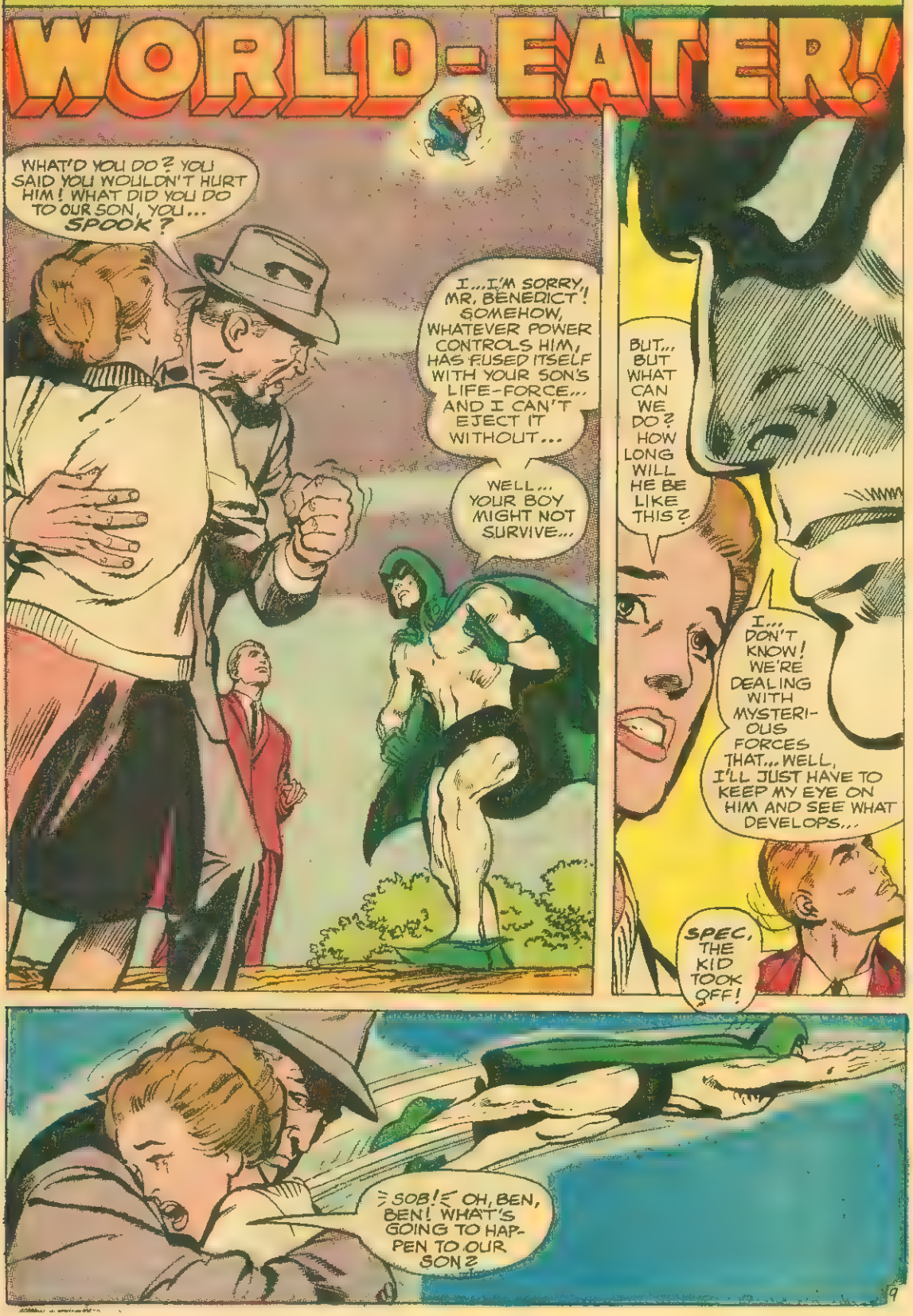
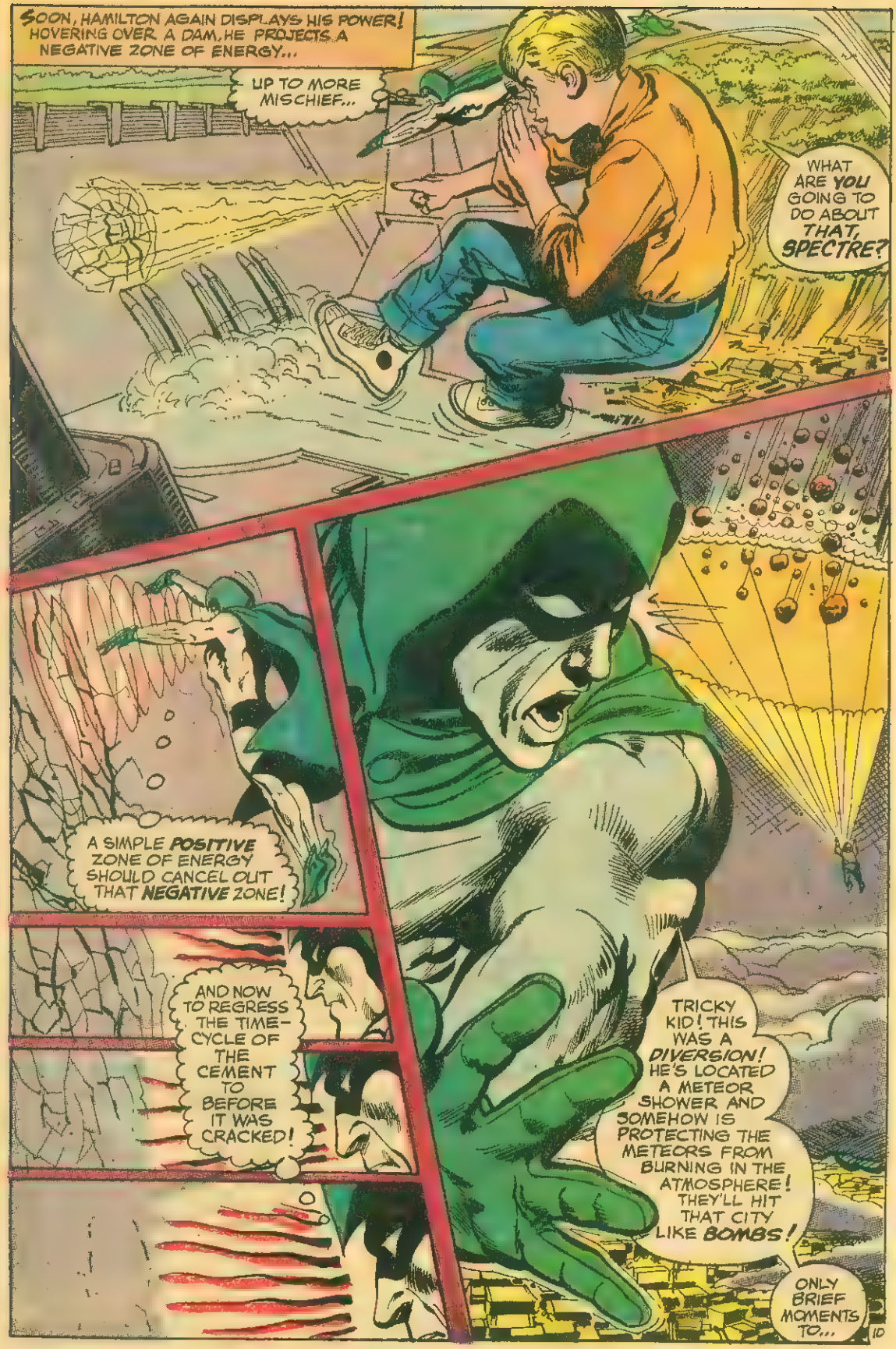
Made exclusively by Monogram Models, Inc., Morton Grove, Ill.

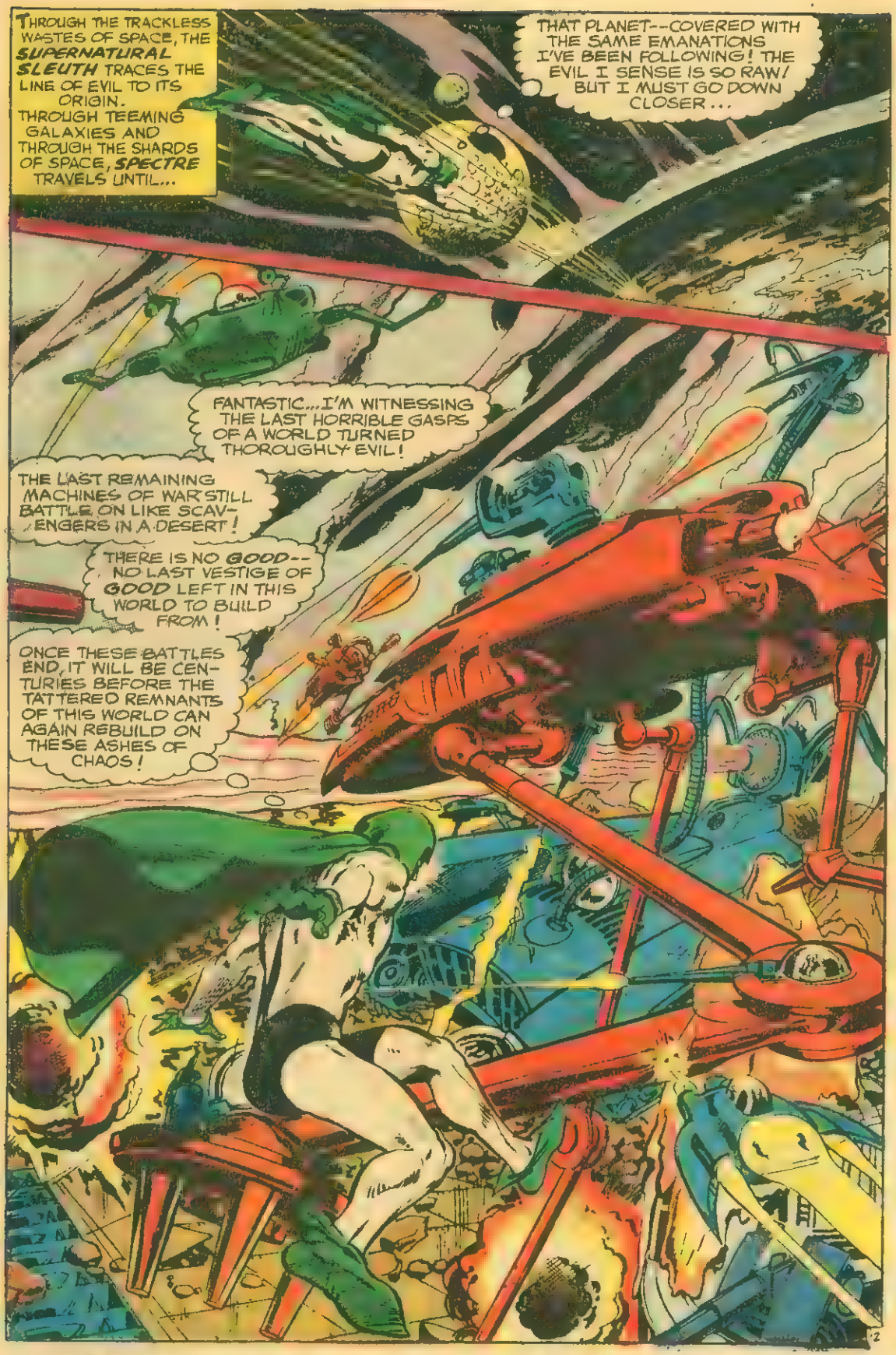
QUICKLY REPLACING HAMILTON BENEDICT'S LIFE-FORCE, A PUZZLED **SPECTRE** RETURNS TO THE BOY'S PARENTS. VISIBLY SHAKEN, HE'S DIMLY BECOMING AWARE OF THE TRUE DANGER OF THE ...

WORLD-EATER!

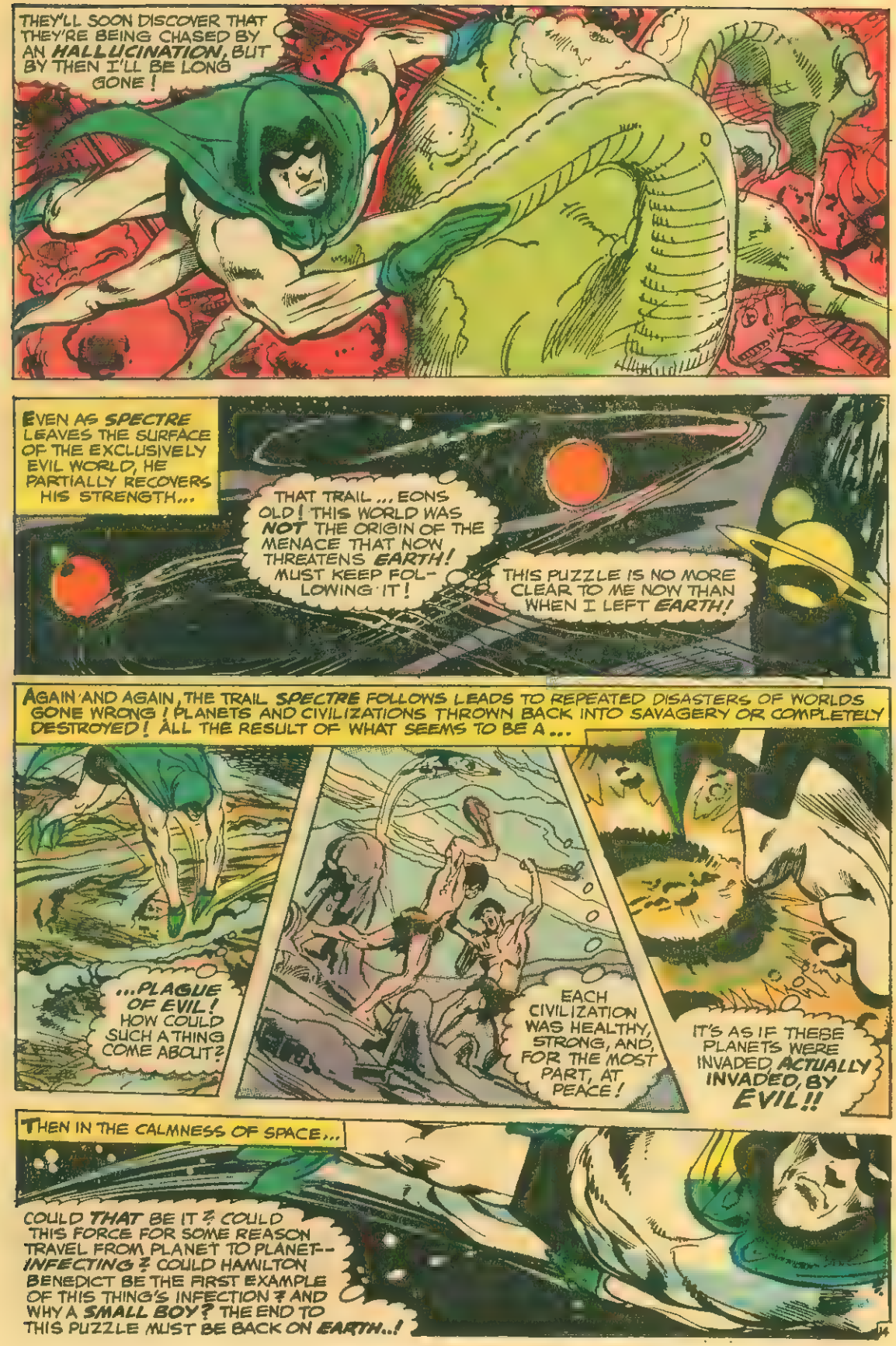

WHAT'D YOU DO? YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T HURT HIM! WHAT DID YOU DO TO OUR SON, YOU... SPOOK?
I...I'M SORRY, MR. BENEDICT! SOMEHOW, WHATEVER POWER CONTROLS HIM, HAS FUSED ITSELF WITH YOUR SON'S LIFE-FORCE... AND I CAN'T EJECT IT WITHOUT...
WELL... YOUR BOY MIGHT NOT SURVIVE...
BUT... BUT WHAT CAN WE DO? HOW LONG WILL HE BE LIKE THIS?
I... DON'T KNOW! WE'RE DEALING WITH MYSTERIOUS FORCES THAT... WELL, I'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP MY EYE ON HIM AND SEE WHAT DEVELOPS...
SPEC, THE KID TOOK OFF!
=SOB!= OH, BEN, BEN! WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO OUR SON?

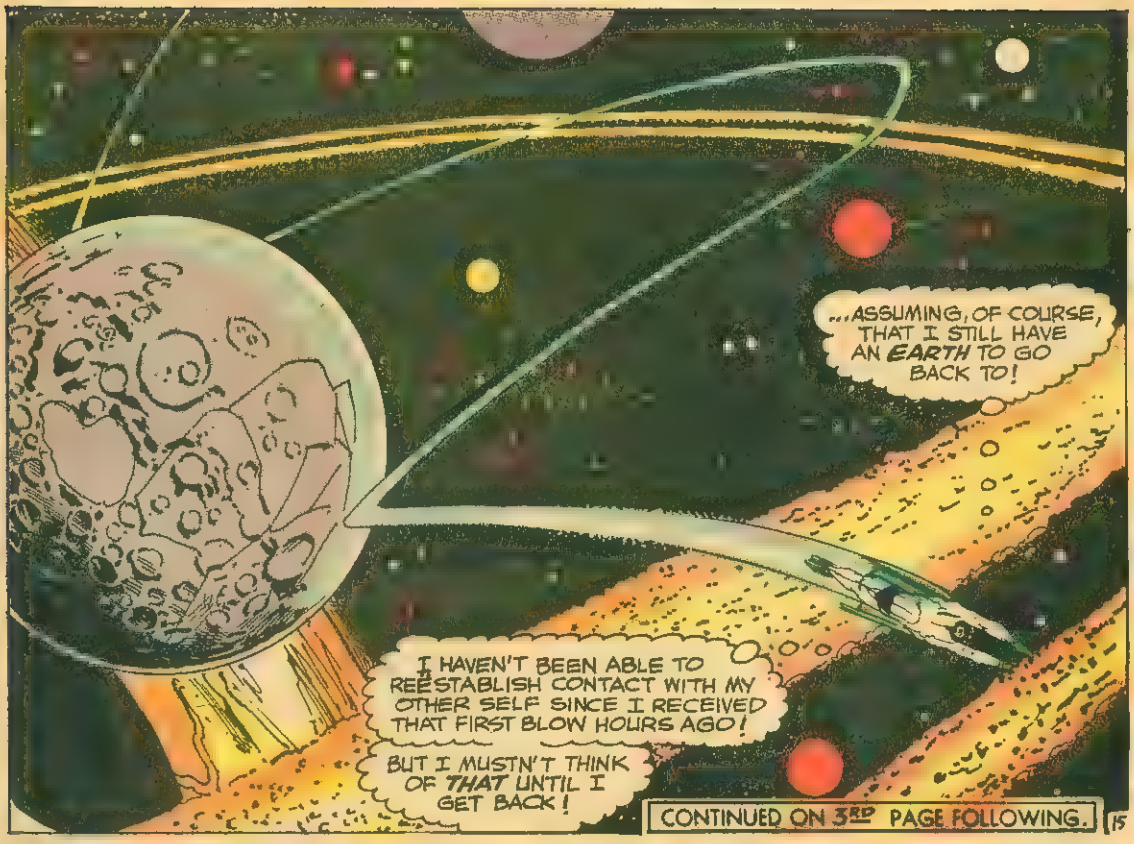

SOON, HAMILTON AGAIN DISPLAYS HIS POWER! HOVERING OVER A DAM, HE PROJECTS A NEGATIVE ZONE OF ENERGY...
UP TO MORE MISCHIEF...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THAT, SPECTRE?
A SIMPLE POSITIVE ZONE OF ENERGY SHOULD CANCEL OUT THAT NEGATIVE ZONE!
AND NOW TO REGRESS THE TIME-CYCLE OF THE CEMENT TO BEFORE IT WAS CRACKED!
TRICKY KID! THIS WAS A DIVERSION! HE'S LOCATED A METEOR SHOWER AND SOMEHOW IS PROTECTING THE METEORS FROM BURNING IN THE ATMOSPHERE! THEY'LL HIT THAT CITY LIKE BOMBS!
ONLY BRIEF MOMENTS TO...

HIS SHIELD IS GOOD ONLY FOR AIR! BY BRINGING THOSE CLOUDS OVER HERE AND CONDENSING THEM INTO A THIN FLAT LAKE...
BROOM!
SBRAM!
BROOM!
VOOSH!
POW!
PAM!
VOOMP!
SHROOSH!
PWOOSH!
POW!
SKOOSH!
PWOOSH!
HITTING THE WATER AT THAT SPEED IS LIKE HITTING A SOLID WALL! AHH! THEY'RE EXPLODING...
SHORTLY, ON THE GROUND...
MAN, WOULD YOU BELIEVE THIS? RAIN IS SUPPOSED TO WASH THE SOOT OUT OF THE AIR-- NOW IT'S BRINGING DOWN THE SOOT WITH IT!
WHEN ARE THEY GOING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE AIR POLLUTION?
IT WORKED! BUT HOW LONG CAN I KEEP THIS UP?
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GET TO THE SOURCE OF THIS EVIL! AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE, I'LL SEPARATE MY POWERS AND MYSELF IN TWO AND SEND ONE-HALF TO INVESTIGATE!
HERE IT IS AGAIN-- THAT FAINT TRAIL-- GOING INTO SPACE!
LET'S SEE WHERE IT LEADS TO...!


THROUGH THE TRACKLESS WASTES OF SPACE, THE SUPERNATURAL SLEUTH TRACES THE LINE OF EVIL TO ITS ORIGIN. THROUGH TEEMING GALAXIES AND THROUGH THE SHARDS OF SPACE, SPECTRE TRAVELS UNTIL...
THAT PLANET--COVERED WITH THE SAME EMANATIONS I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING! THE EVIL I SENSE IS SO RAW! BUT I MUST GO DOWN CLOSER...
FANTASTIC...I'M WITNESSING THE LAST HORRIBLE GASPS OF A WORLD TURNED THOROUGHLY EVIL!
THE LAST REMAINING MACHINES OF WAR STILL BATTLE ON LIKE SCAVENGERS IN A DESERT!
THERE IS NO GOOD--NO LAST VESTIGE OF GOOD LEFT IN THIS WORLD TO BUILD FROM!
ONCE THESE BATTLES END, IT WILL BE CENTURIES BEFORE THE TATTERED REMNANTS OF THIS WORLD CAN AGAIN REBUILD ON THESE ASHES OF CHAOS!

AT A CRITICAL MOMENT, SPECTRE'S SUPERNATURAL SENSES WARN HIM...
ZAT!
"CAN'T MAINTAIN CONTACT"... WITH MY OTHER SELF IS WHAT THE ETHEREAL DETECTIVE MEANS! AND HOW IMPORTANT IS THIS BROKEN CONTACT...?
TH-THAT WEAPON... IT WEAKENED ME SOMEHOW... AND IT WASN'T EVEN A DIRECT HIT! THE AURA OF EVIL ON THIS WORLD FILLS EVEN THE WEAPONS OF ITS LAST INHABITANTS!
...CAN'T MAINTAIN CONTACT...
ZAT ZAT ZAT!
MORE OF THEM COMING... AND I'M ONLY AT HALF-STRENGTH... MY HEAD'S STILL RINGING...
I'LL TRY SIMPLE INVISIBILITY AND FLIGHT!
NO GOOD! THEIR DETECTION DEVICES ARE TOO SOPHISTICATED... TAKING TOO MUCH... OF A BATTERING...
ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO!
SUDDENLY, OUT OF THE VOID, A RAGING NIGHTMARE HURLS ITSELF AT THE DEMONIC MACHINES...
EEEROW


THEY'LL SOON DISCOVER THAT THEY'RE BEING CHASED BY AN HALLUCINATION, BUT BY THEN I'LL BE LONG GONE!
EVEN AS SPECTRE LEAVES THE SURFACE OF THE EXCLUSIVELY EVIL WORLD, HE PARTIALLY RECOVERS HIS STRENGTH...
THAT TRAIL ... EONS OLD! THIS WORLD WAS NOT THE ORIGIN OF THE MENACE THAT NOW THREATENS EARTH! MUST KEEP FOLLOWING IT!
THIS PUZZLE IS NO MORE CLEAR TO ME NOW THAN WHEN I LEFT EARTH!
AGAIN AND AGAIN, THE TRAIL SPECTRE FOLLOWS LEADS TO REPEATED DISASTERS OF WORLDS GONE WRONG! PLANETS AND CIVILIZATIONS THROWN BACK INTO SAVAGERY OR COMPLETELY DESTROYED! ALL THE RESULT OF WHAT SEEMS TO BE A ...
...PLAGUE OF EVIL! HOW COULD SUCH A THING COME ABOUT?
EACH CIVILIZATION WAS HEALTHY, STRONG, AND, FOR THE MOST PART, AT PEACE!
IT'S AS IF THESE PLANETS WERE INVADED, ACTUALLY INVADED, BY EVIL!!
THEN IN THE CALMNESS OF SPACE...
COULD THAT BE IT? COULD THIS FORCE FOR SOME REASON TRAVEL FROM PLANET TO PLANET-- INFECTING? COULD HAMILTON BENEDICT BE THE FIRST EXAMPLE OF THIS THING'S INFECTION? AND WHY A SMALL BOY? THE END TO THIS PUZZLE MUST BE BACK ON EARTH..!


...ASSUMING, OF COURSE, THAT I STILL HAVE AN EARTH TO GO BACK TO!
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO REESTABLISH CONTACT WITH MY OTHER SELF SINCE I RECEIVED THAT FIRST BLOW HOURS AGO!
BUT I MUSTN'T THINK OF THAT UNTIL I GET BACK!
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.
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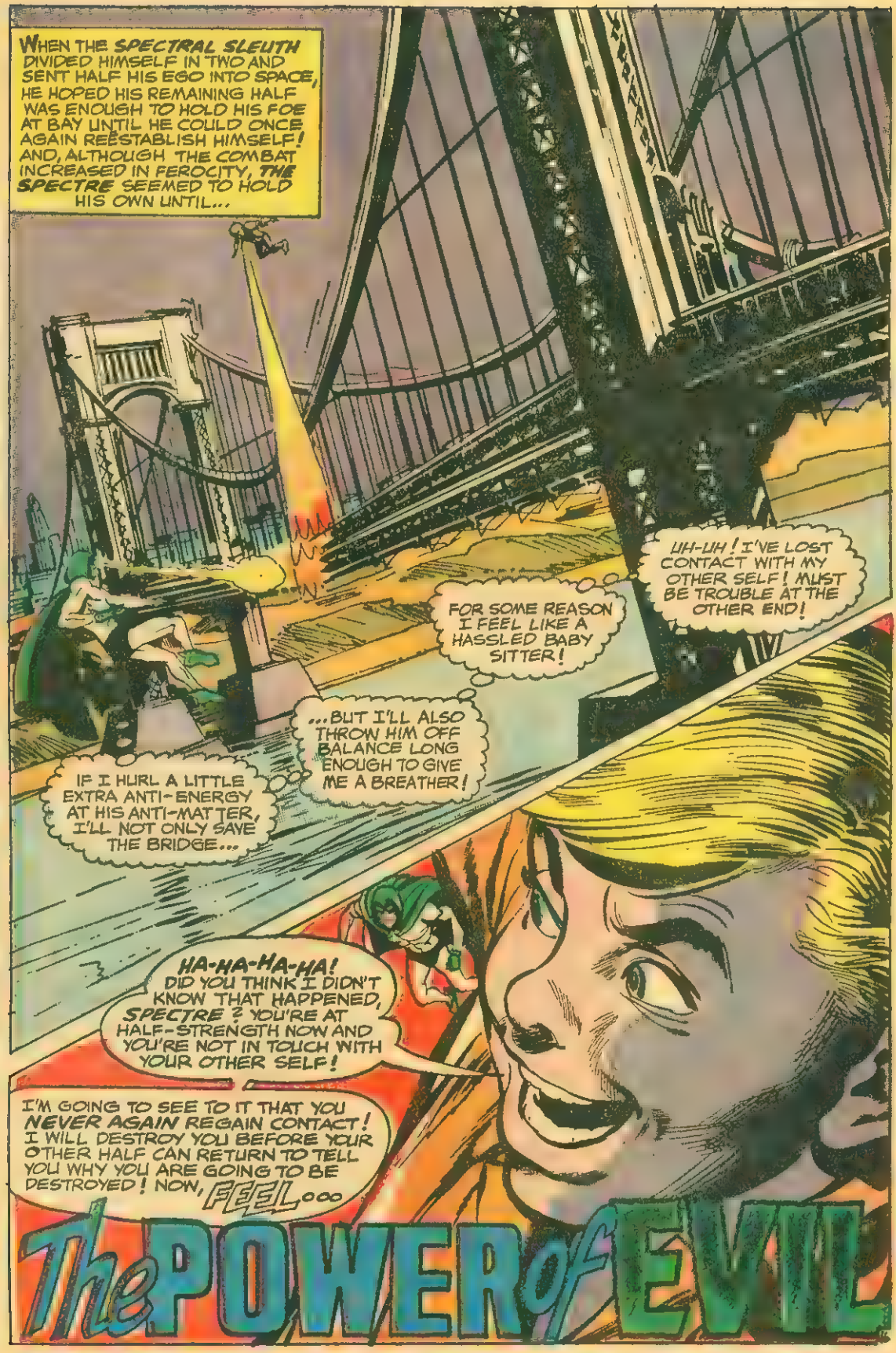
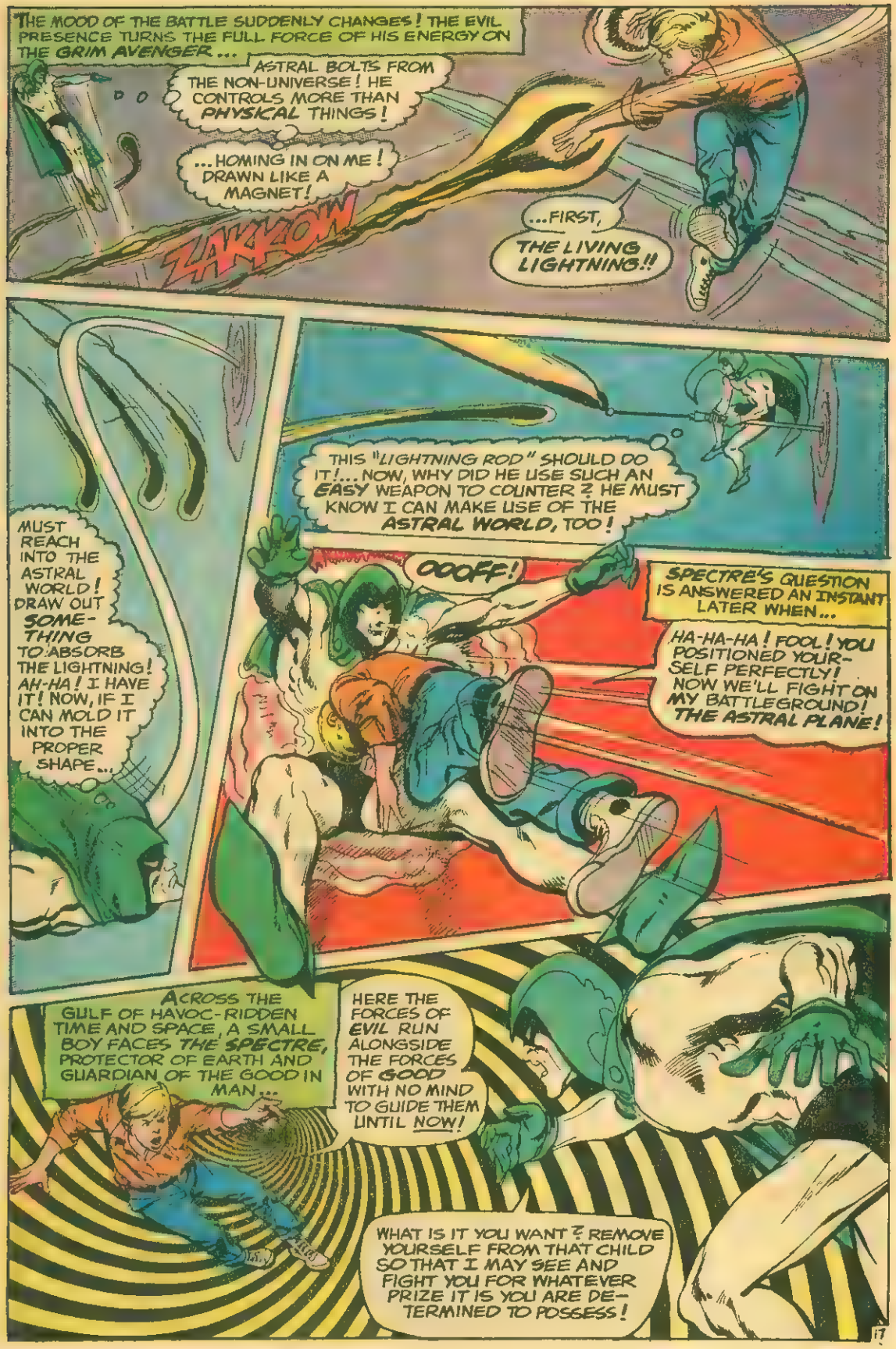
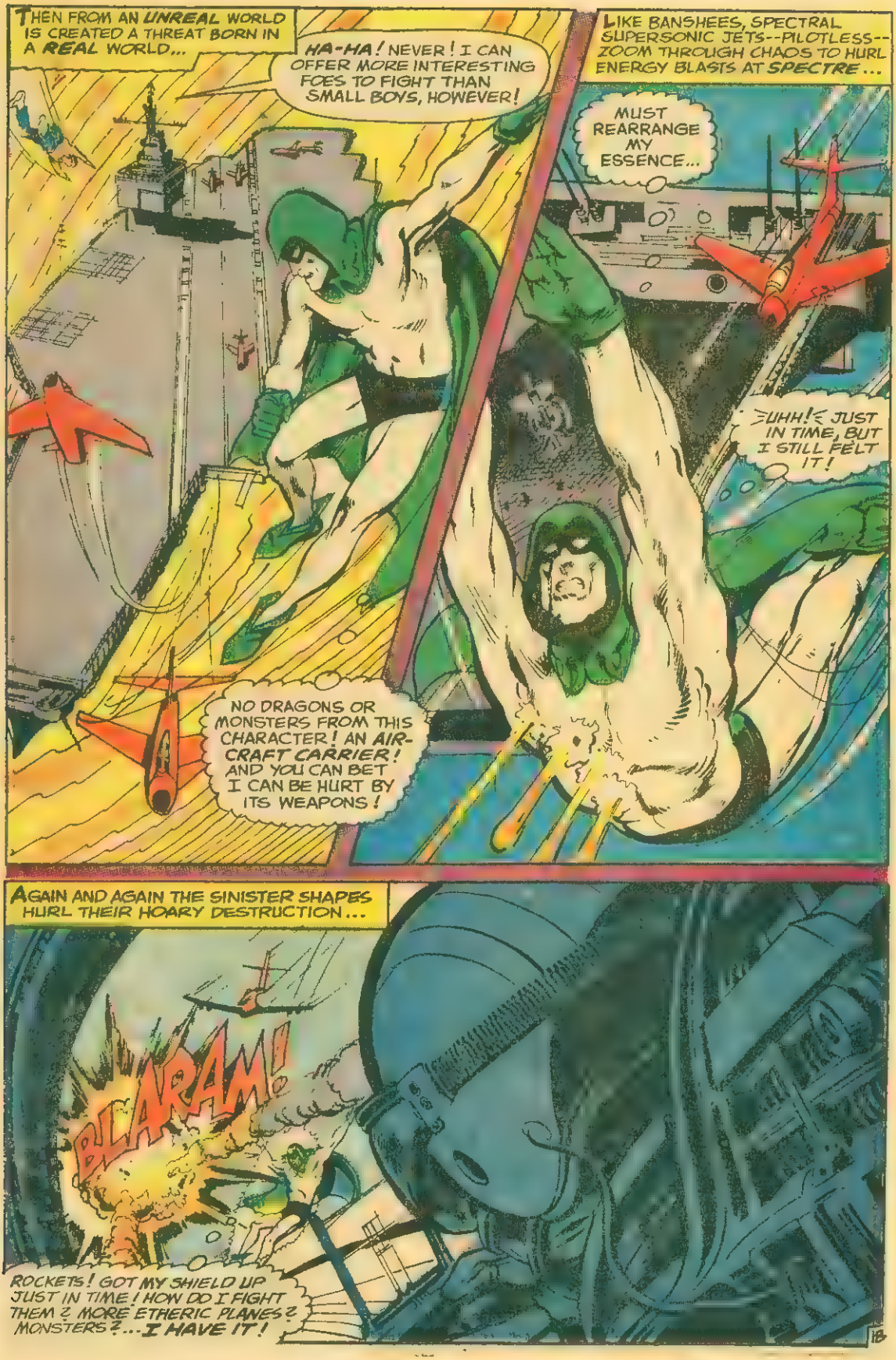
Who are They?

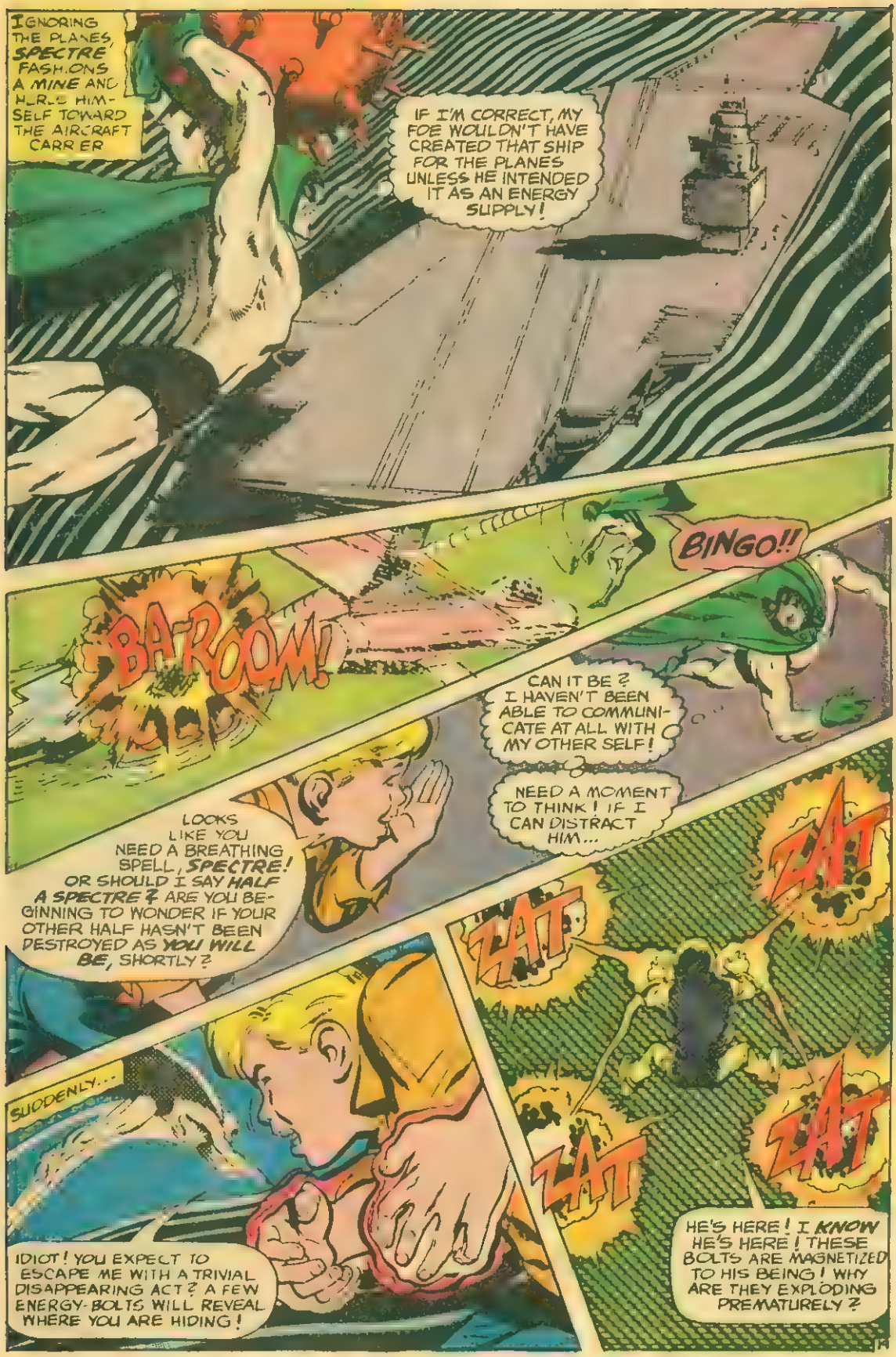
What are they?

ANGEL AND THE APE!


WHEN THE SPECTRAL SLEUTH DIVIDED HIMSELF IN TWO AND SENT HALF HIS EGO INTO SPACE, HE HOPED HIS REMAINING HALF WAS ENOUGH TO HOLD HIS FOE AT BAY UNTIL HE COULD ONCE AGAIN REESTABLISH HIMSELF! AND, ALTHOUGH THE COMBAT INCREASED IN FEROCITY, THE SPECTRE SEEMED TO HOLD HIS OWN UNTIL...
UH-UH! I'VE LOST CONTACT WITH MY OTHER SELF! MUST BE TROUBLE AT THE OTHER END!
FOR SOME REASON I FEEL LIKE A HASSLED BABY SITTER!
...BUT I'LL ALSO THROW HIM OFF BALANCE LONG ENOUGH TO GIVE ME A BREATHER!
IF I HURL A LITTLE EXTRA ANTI-ENERGY AT HIS ANTI-MATTER, I'LL NOT ONLY SAVE THE BRIDGE...
HA-HA-HA-HA! DID YOU THINK I DIDN'T KNOW THAT HAPPENED, SPECTRE? YOU'RE AT HALF-STRENGTH NOW AND YOU'RE NOT IN TOUCH WITH YOUR OTHER SELF!
I'M GOING TO SEE TO IT THAT YOU NEVER AGAIN REGAIN CONTACT! I WILL DESTROY YOU BEFORE YOUR OTHER HALF CAN RETURN TO TELL YOU WHY YOU ARE GOING TO BE DESTROYED! NOW, FEEL...
The POWER of EVIL


THE MOOD OF THE BATTLE SUDDENLY CHANGES! THE EVIL PRESENCE TURNS THE FULL FORCE OF HIS ENERGY ON THE GRIM AVENGER...
ASTRAL BOLTS FROM THE NON-UNIVERSE! HE CONTROLS MORE THAN PHYSICAL THINGS!
...HOMING IN ON ME! DRAWN LIKE A MAGNET!
ZAKKOW
...FIRST, THE LIVING LIGHTNING!!
THIS "LIGHTNING ROD" SHOULD DO IT!... NOW, WHY DID HE USE SUCH AN EASY WEAPON TO COUNTER? HE MUST KNOW I CAN MAKE USE OF THE ASTRAL WORLD, TOO!
MUST REACH INTO THE ASTRAL WORLD! DRAW OUT SOMETHING TO ABSORB THE LIGHTNING! AH-HA! I HAVE IT! NOW, IF I CAN MOLD IT INTO THE PROPER SHAPE...
OOOFF!
SPECTRE'S QUESTION IS ANSWERED AN INSTANT LATER WHEN...
HA-HA-HA! FOOL! YOU POSITIONED YOURSELF PERFECTLY! NOW WE'LL FIGHT ON MY BATTLEGROUND! THE ASTRAL PLANE!
ACROSS THE GULF OF HAVOC-RIDDEN TIME AND SPACE, A SMALL BOY FACES THE SPECTRE, PROTECTOR OF EARTH AND GUARDIAN OF THE GOOD IN MAN...
HERE THE FORCES OF EVIL RUN ALONGSIDE THE FORCES OF GOOD WITH NO MIND TO GUIDE THEM UNTIL NOW!
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT? REMOVE YOURSELF FROM THAT CHILD SO THAT I MAY SEE AND FIGHT YOU FOR WHATEVER PRIZE IT IS YOU ARE DETERMINED TO POSSESS!


THEN FROM AN UNREAL WORLD IS CREATED A THREAT BORN IN A REAL WORLD...
HA-HA! NEVER! I CAN OFFER MORE INTERESTING FOES TO FIGHT THAN SMALL BOYS, HOWEVER!
NO DRAGONS OR MONSTERS FROM THIS CHARACTER! AN AIR-CRAFT CARRIER! AND YOU CAN BET I CAN BE HURT BY ITS WEAPONS!
LIKE BANSHEES, SPECTRAL SUPERSONIC JETS--PILOTLESS--ZOOM THROUGH CHAOS TO HURL ENERGY BLASTS AT SPECTRE...
MUST REARRANGE MY ESSENCE...
UHH! JUST IN TIME, BUT I STILL FELT IT!
AGAIN AND AGAIN THE SINISTER SHAPES HURL THEIR HOARY DESTRUCTION...
BLARAM!
ROCKETS! GOT MY SHIELD UP JUST IN TIME! HOW DO I FIGHT THEM? MORE ETHERIC PLANES? MONSTERS?...I HAVE IT!


IGNORING THE PLANES, SPECTRE FASHIONS A MINE AND HURLS HIMSELF TOWARD THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER
IF I'M CORRECT, MY FOE WOULDN'T HAVE CREATED THAT SHIP FOR THE PLANES UNLESS HE INTENDED IT AS AN ENERGY SUPPLY!
BINGO!!
BA-ROOM!
CAN IT BE? I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO COMMUNICATE AT ALL WITH MY OTHER SELF!
NEED A MOMENT TO THINK! IF I CAN DISTRACT HIM...
LOOKS LIKE YOU NEED A BREATHING SPELL, SPECTRE! OR SHOULD I SAY HALF A SPECTRE? ARE YOU BEGINNING TO WONDER IF YOUR OTHER HALF HASN'T BEEN DESTROYED AS YOU WILL BE, SHORTLY?
ZAT
ZAT
ZAT
SUDDENLY...
IDIOT! YOU EXPECT TO ESCAPE ME WITH A TRIVIAL DISAPPEARING ACT? A FEW ENERGY-BOLTS WILL REVEAL WHERE YOU ARE HIDING!
HE'S HERE! I KNOW HE'S HERE! THESE BOLTS ARE MAGNETIZED TO HIS BEING! WHY ARE THEY EXPLODING PREMATURELY?

BUT SPECTRE HAS NOT DISAPPEARED! HE HAS MERELY EXPANDED THE MOLECULES OF HIS ASTRAL IMAGE TO SOLAR SYSTEM-SIZE, MAKING HIS BODY APPEAR INVISIBLE...
HE'S INSIDE ME AND HE DOESN'T KNOW IT! NOW TO TRY TO COMMUNICATE WITH MY OTHER SELF... AH-- THERE IT IS! LAYERS AND LAYERS OF GARBLED ASTRAL COMMUNICATION SIGNALS...THAT'S HOW HE THWARTED MY EFFORTS!
A FEW MOMENTS OF INTENSE WORK AND...
BEFORE SPECTRE CAN COMPLETE HIS THOUGHT...
HA! YOU MERELY EARNED A SWIFTER DESTRUCTION FOR YOUR THEATRICAL EFFORTS, SPECTRE!
UH-OH! TOO LATE-- UNLESS, PERHAPS, BEFORE HE ATTACKS...
SWOCK
POW
CRUNCH
THEN AT THE LAST MOMENT...
NO! NO! NO!
10

IMPOSSIBLE! THE LAYERS OF INTERFERENCE ARE STILL INTACT! YOU COULDN'T HAVE REMOVED THEM!
I DIDN'T REMOVE THEM! I FIRED AN EXTREMELY TINY COMMUNICATIONS BEAM THROUGH THE SHIELD! IT WAS JUST STRONG ENOUGH TO GET THROUGH!
GOOD! BUT NOT GOOD ENOUGH! IF I CAN'T DESTROY YOU, I'LL DESTROY YOUR WORLD! YOU WERE ONLY THE FIRST STEP, ANYWAY!
SHORTLY, BACK ON EARTH...
THAT'S IT, JIM! HE'S PLANNING TO DESTROY THE EARTH! SOMEHOW HE LIVES OFF THE EVIL THAT HE CAUSES WITH HIS DESTRUCTION! I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN KEEP HIM AT BAY WITHOUT HARMING THE BOY!
CAN'T YOU BLAST HIM OUT OF THE BOY SOMEHOW?
YES, THERE'S A WAY. BUT I MAY--IN FACT, PROBABLY WILL--DESTROY THE BOY IN THE PROCESS!
BUT, SPECTRE! HE'S GOING TO WRECK THE WORLD! THE WHOLE BLOODY WORLD!
I KNOW... BUT... BUT... THE BOY?!
THE BOY--OR THE WORLD--SPECTRE! THE BOY--OR THE WORLD!!
THE BOY--OR THE WORLD!!
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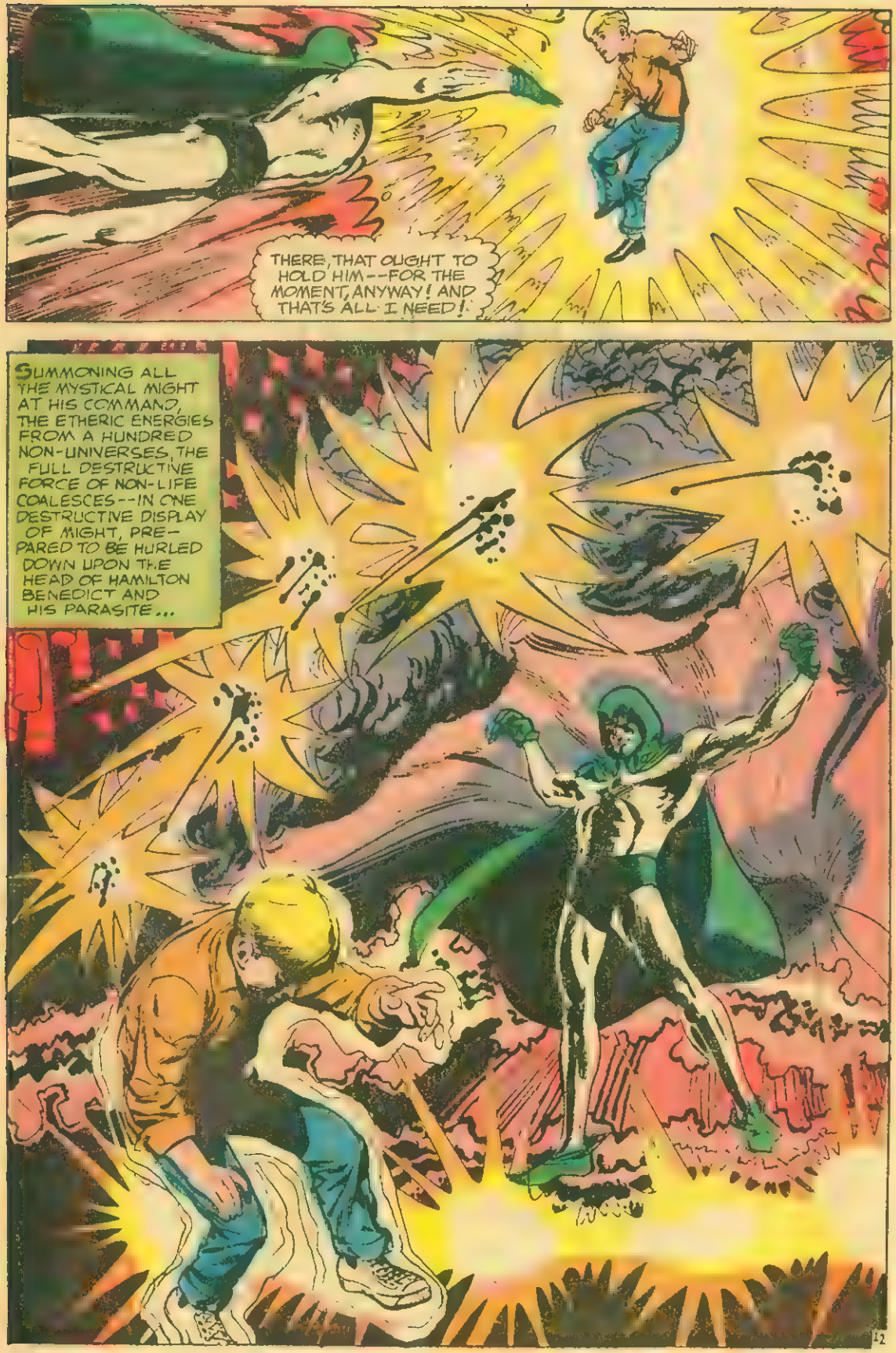
THERE, THAT OUGHT TO HOLD HIM--FOR THE MOMENT, ANYWAY! AND THAT'S ALL I NEED!
SUMMONING ALL THE MYSTICAL MIGHT AT HIS COMMAND, THE ETHERIC ENERGIES FROM A HUNDRED NON-UNIVERSES, THE FULL DESTRUCTIVE FORCE OF NON-LIFE COALESCES--IN ONE DESTRUCTIVE DISPLAY OF MIGHT, PREPARED TO BE HURLED DOWN UPON THE HEAD OF HAMILTON BENEDICT AND HIS PARASITE...

I--CAN'T--DO--IT! I CAN'T TAKE THE CHANCE...I WON'T!
I'LL PURSUE YOU THROUGH ETERNITY AND STOP YOUR DESTRUCTION ONE WAY OR ANOTHER THROUGHOUT ALL TIME AND ALL SPACE!
AND I'LL WAIT UNTIL YOU LEAVE THIS BOY'S BODY, BUT I WON'T HARM A HAIR ON HIS HEAD TO GET AT YOU! THOUGH I SACRIFICE ETERNITY...
...HE SHALL NOT BE HARMED!
THEN SUDDENLY...
EEEYAAH!
NEVER IN A HUNDRED WORLDS HAVE I BEEN DEFEATED... OR HAVE I ENCOUNTERED GOOD SO PURE AND TANGIBLE! HOW DID YOU GUESS? HOW??
GUESS... WHAT?

HA! THE GREATEST JOKE OF ALL! YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU DID! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! YOU'LL EXCUSE ME IF I RETURN TO THE OBLIVION I WAS CREATED FROM! THERE IS NO FOOD FOR ME HERE! NO EVIL TO SUSTAIN ME!
MOMENTS LATER...
I WON THIS ONE, JIM, BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW...
I THINK I DO, SPEC! DON'T YOU SEE? YOU ARE THE GREATEST FORCE FOR GOOD ON THIS PLANET!...YOUR FOE'S GREATEST ENEMY!
HAD YOU DESTROYED THE BOY YOU'D HAVE COMMITTED AN EVIL WHICH SOMEHOW WOULD HAVE BEEN THE FIRST IN HIS...I GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT HIS "FEEDING PROCESS"!
OF COURSE! ALL THOSE OTHER PLANETS! THAT'S HOW HE DID IT! THE GREATEST GOOD! HE SOMEHOW TURNED THE GREATEST GOOD INTO AN ALLY OF EVIL! THE REST WAS EASY!
WHAT GOOD WOULD I HAVE BEEN TO EARTH AS A FORCE OF GOOD IF I COULD DESTROY THE LIFE OF A SMALL BOY?
H-HELLO! ARE YOU A GHOST?
SORT OF, SON! BUT HE'S A GOOD GHOST!
THE END

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORIES:

At last, this issue's installment of the chronological reprinting of the Legion of Super-Heroes brings us to the beginning of their series, the true dawn of Legion fandom. But first, one more pre-series tale needs be mentioned:

"The Boy With The Ultra-Powers" (from SUPERBOY #98, July, 1962) was typical of its period of Legion stories, serving mainly to introduce one new Legionnaire. And, like so many early Legion tales, it only told *part* of the character's story. As we now know, Ultra Boy really gained many powers when trapped in the energy-beast—virtually all of Superboy's abilities, although he could only use one power at a time. In this story, however, only his vision powers are shown by writer Jerry Siegel.

It's interesting to note that the theme of initiations for Legion members crops up again here, for the last time in early Legion history. And Pete Ross' appearance presages his being awarded honorary membership, sometime between this story and when he next appeared with the Legion (never mind logical questions like how a 30th Century coin could *get* him to the 30th Century). The final curiosity is Marla, the Legion's advisor, who would not reappear until Ultra Boy got in trouble in SUPERBOY/LEGION #239... sixteen years later.

Now, for something completely different. ADVENTURE COMICS #300 (September, 1962) introduced *Tales of the Legion of Super-Heroes,* a regular monthly series of stories about the LSH in the back of the comic. Present day fans should understand that then (as now) ADVENTURE was going through a difficult period, changing formats and trying to find an identity. *Superboy* had been the lead series for twenty-five years, but back features had changed from *Aquaman* and *Green Arrow* to *Congorilla* to the short-lived *Tales of the Bizarro World,* which the Legion replaced, retaining the same creative team—Jerry Siegel and John Forte. The magazine was still selling well—twice as well as strong titles such as JUSTICE LEAGUE or FLASH, in fact, but it was in a creative muddle.

The first story, reprinted in this issue, treated the Legion like the Bizarros—as a Superman family spin-off. Superboy's presence was front and center, the villain turns out to be built by Luthor, and Mon-El, previously seen only in SUPERBOY, joins the Legion from the Phantom Zone. But the beginnings of the mythos were becoming clearer—membership was more definitely identified (though the Hall of Heroes neglected then-members Triplicate Girl, Phantom Girl, Colossal Boy, Supergirl, Brainiac Five, Ultra Boy and Star Boy), Superboy visits the future under his own power for the first time, the World-Wide Police which would later be renamed Science Police appear again, and best of all, the Legion battles as a team against a villain for the first time ever.

It had taken four and a half years, but the Legion had arrived. They would take over ADVENTURE page by page, dominating the comic for eighty-one issues. In the next few ADVENTURE COMICS DIGEST issues, we'll trace the Jerry Siegel-scripted era of the series, and watch the magic begin to happen. If you missed it the first time around, be sure to stick with us.

—Paul Levitz

THE LEGION MUST UNCOVER THE FACE BEHIND THE LEAD MASK!
EXCITEMENT! SHOCK! ACTION! ALL IN 100 PAGES!
AQUAMAN
...DEAD?!!
SHAZAM!
THE ORIGIN OF BLACK ADAM!
THE SPECTRE
THE POWER OF EVIL!